

India's former prime minister and 12 others killed in election outrage

Rajiv Gandhi assassinated in bomb blast

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

INDIA was in turmoil last night after Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a bomb.

His death was another tragic marker in the history of the country's leading dynasty following the assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi, on October 31, 1984. He was then chosen to replace her as leader of the Congress (I) party. Mrs Gandhi was killed by two of her Sikh bodyguards in revenge for the military assault she ordered on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Sikh's holiest shrine.

At least 12 other people were killed in the explosion, which took place as Mr Gandhi was campaigning in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Mr Gandhi, who was prime minister from 1984 to 1989, had just got out of his car in the town of Sriperumbudur, 25 miles southwest of Madras, according to PTI, the Indian domestic news agency. His decapitated body was left

lying in a pool of blood. Security men cordoned off the area and tried to take the injured to hospital. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack or indication of who was responsible. The United News of India agency said the mutilated body of the Congress (I) leader was identified by a senior police officer. Before heading for the meeting, Mr Gandhi had placed a garland on a statue of his mother. His younger brother, Sanjay, was killed in an air-plane crash in 1980.

The reluctant inheritor of the family's political mantle, who was a former Indian Airlines pilot, is survived by his Italian-born wife, Sonia, a son and a daughter. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and also trained as a pilot in Britain. He entered politics in 1981, winning a by-election in Uttar Pradesh for a seat that had been held by his brother Sanjay.

His assassination came during the bloodiest election campaign in India's 44-year history as an independent country. Most of the violence in the southern state of Tamil Nadu has been attributed to Tamil militants from Sri Lanka who have sought refuge there.

As prime minister, Mr Gandhi sent troops to the island nation of Sri Lanka in an attempt to end years of ethnic strife between the Sinhalese majority and the Tamil minority. However, he became entrenched in an two-and-a-half year struggle with the militants and the soldiers were withdrawn from the island in March 1990, six months after he left office.

Mr Gandhi had been on the target list of Sikh terrorists fighting for an independent nation in northern Punjab state, but the group has not been known to operate in Tamil Nadu. At the beginning of the election campaign Mr Gandhi accused the other parties of trying to divide the country along caste and religious lines. He promised to heal the wounds created during the 17 months he had been out of power.

Hindus and Muslims were involved in fighting again

yesterday in four northern towns as sectarian violence spread. At least 85 people had been killed in the two days preceding last night's explosion. Indian news agencies reported religious riots were continuing in the towns of Meerut, Varanasi, Kanpur and Deoband, in Uttar Pradesh. Curfews had been imposed in the four towns and troops had been deployed.

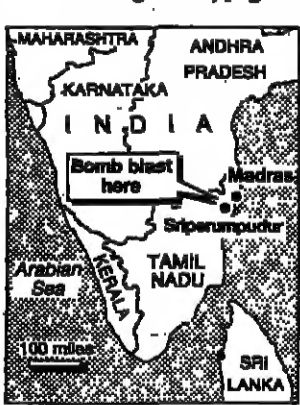
Uttar Pradesh is the most populous of India's 25 states and, with 85 seats in the 543-member parliament, it has been seen as pivotal to the outcome of the election. Three of the five districts where election results have been invalidated are also in the state. The other two districts are in the neighbouring state of Bihar.

The two states are the main battle grounds for the Congress (I) party, which is trying to stage a comeback after its defeat in 1989, and the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata party, and the Janata Dal party.

Violence erupted at the beginning of the week after rival partisans attempted to stuff ballot boxes. Meerut, an industrial town 50 miles northeast of Delhi, was the worst affected. At least 23 people were killed during rioting after a Hindu and a Muslim candidate accused each other of ballot-rigging on Monday.

Gandhi's Congress Party and Mr Singh's Janata Dal blamed the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party, which campaigned on a platform of Hindu assertiveness, for much of the violence.

Leading article, page 15



Tributes to leader of 'real vision'

By STAFF REPORTERS

BRITISH politicians were outraged by the death of Rajiv Gandhi, the leader of the Congress (I) party in India, last night.

Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, and a personal friend of the Gandhis, described the news as devastating. "He had a real vision for a modern democratic India and tried everything he could to bring it to life. He was a man of great ability and he mixed courage with gentleness. His murderers have inflicted a great loss on the world and his country."

Paddy Ashdown, the leader

of the Liberal Democrats, said: "This is a tragedy for India and a bitter blow for democracy. Britain has a close relationship with the people of India. We must pray for stability and peace... and do all that we can to assist the survival of stability and democracy in the short and the long term."

Dr David Owen, the former Labour foreign secretary, said: "It is a shattering blow. We do not yet know who has done this, but Sikh extremists vowed to kill him. He lived with this threat all the time."



Shared fate: Indira Gandhi and her son Rajiv together in Delhi in 1984

Ethiopia president flees country

By JAMES SHIMANYULA AND DAVID WATTS

PRESIDENT Mengistu of Ethiopia yesterday bowed to the inevitable and fled his war-torn country in the face of insurgents pressing ever closer to the capital. The abrupt end of his 14 years of bloody dictatorship came less than 18 hours after he received a message from his friend President Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

His departure, slumped anonymously in the back of a car almost hidden from view with only a small motor-cycle escort, could hardly have been a greater contrast with the strutting, flamboyant style with which he had ruled the country.

Ethiopians were stunned by the announcement over the state radio which said Mengistu had fled abroad but did not give his destination. The radio said he had stepped

Continued on page 20, col 1



Tesfaye Gabre Kidan: the acting head of state

Major tells CBI wage increases must be earned

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP BASSETT

INDUSTRY must kick the "bad old habits of paying itself on the shopfloor or in the boardroom money it cannot hope to earn", John Major told leading businessmen at the annual dinner of the Confederation of British Industry last night.

The prime minister said that pay must be linked to performance and productivity, and he wanted to see the principle reflected increasingly through the public sector. Mr Major declared: "There should be no such thing as automatic pay increases." The prime minister faced sharp criticism of government economic policies from business leaders, with the CBI renewing its call for further cuts in interest rates.

Mr Major acknowledged that "times are tough" for British industry but insisted that the difficulties were temporary. He said that was no consolation for those who lose their jobs or for the companies facing financial crisis. That was why tackling inflation remained the top priority. "Never again must our economy have to face the painful but necessary retrenchment of the last few months. We must conquer inflation and we must have minimum interference in industry."

Mr Major promised to return more nationalised industries to the private sector, open up more local government activities to private sector skills, and cut and simplify taxation on individuals and companies. He said that the battle against inflation was being won and that forecasts

pointed to a welcome resumption of growth in the second half of the year. There was widespread confidence that within the framework of the exchange rate mechanism, there would be further falls in inflation "and that interest rates can and will fall further too".

Sir Brian Corby, the CBI president, told Mr Major that the "balance of risk" now clearly favoured further relaxations in base rates, and disagreed openly with the government's suggestions of an imminent economic recovery. He said: "The manufacturing cycle may be beginning to bottom out. But I'm afraid there is no rapid recovery in prospect, not in manufacturing, nor elsewhere in the economy."

Companies had accepted high interest rates as a "necessary but thoroughly unpleasant evil" in the cause of defeating inflation, but further improvements in investment, which were necessary to contain inflation, were being put at risk every day that interest rates stayed higher than needed. Business would support any measures to help win the battle against inflation, Sir Brian said. But he gave a warning that the costs the government was asking businesses to bear would inevitably lead either to higher prices or fewer profits available for investment. An cut in interest rates would not suddenly revive demand and lead to a resurgence of inflationary pressures.

Jobless rise, page 21

Fighting dogs to be outlawed in Britain

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of fighting dogs will be humanely destroyed under legislation to be rushed through Parliament after an announcement being made today by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, in response to a recent wave of savage attacks.

The import of American pit bull terriers and other dogs bred specifically for fighting was banned from midnight last night. Those already in Britain face destruction under the new bill. Vets are expected to be paid to destroy the animals rather than the RSPCA, which already puts down 40,000 dogs a year.

John Major, in a marked stepping up of the government's reaction to the horrific injuries suffered by Rucksana Khan, disclosed to MPs the harsh measures to be taken against fighting dogs. Such dogs, he said, had no place in British homes.

Government sources later confirmed that the legislation to ban ownership will mean the destruction of most of the estimated 10,000 US pit bull terriers already in Britain and any other breeds defined as "fighting dogs". But owners would have a period of grace in which to export their dogs.

If owners do not comply with the new law, it is expected to allow official seizure and destruction of animals. Officials are considering whether to pay compensation for destroyed dogs, estimated to be worth £300 each.

The dramatic hardening of Continued on page 20, col 5

Uproar over Chernobyl death toll report

A new survey suggests that stress did as much damage to Chernobyl victims as radiation. Nigel Hawkes reports

A fierce argument broke out yesterday over whether Chernobyl was the disaster presented by the western media. Did only 31 people die, as the official Soviet figures have it, or was the death toll at least 7,000, as Ukrainian sources have claimed? Was it the worst accident in the world, or only a small hiccup in the progress of nuclear power?

To howls of protest from environmental groups, the International Atomic Energy Agency yesterday insisted that the effects of the accident had been far less serious than many feared. Stress, anxiety and the trauma of being uprooted had done at least as much damage to the people affected as had radiation.

John Willis, of Greenpeace, immediately responded: "This is the beginning of a whitewash; it is constructed for political purposes."

Simon Roberts, of Friends of the Earth, declared the IAEA guilty of "gross negligence and scientific incompetence".

The fuss was caused by a report released in Vienna by the IAEA's international Chernobyl project, which said there was no evidence that thousands or tens of thousands of people would suffer leukaemia or other cancers as a result of the disaster in April 1986.

While many Soviet citizens were suffering from stress and anxiety, "reported adverse health effects attributed to radiation have not been substantiated either by those local studies which were adequately performed or by the studies under the project," the report says.

Mr Roberts claimed that the 200 scientists from 25 countries who conducted the study were negligent because they failed to investigate those who received the highest radiation doses, and incompetent because they had drawn conclusions from Continued on page 20, col 5



RAISED IN THE HIGHLANDS



THE FAMOUS GROUSE
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

QUALITY IN AN AGE OF CHANGE

How to come out king of the electronic jungle

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's families are living from morning to night in an electronic haze of droning television sets, ping-pong microwaves and sputtering computer games whereas others are reaping the full benefits of the modern technology age, researchers said last night. As CD players, videos and information machines increasingly spill into modern homes, families are coping in very different ways.

Roger Silverstone, a researcher at Brunel university, west London, who is studying the cultural impact of household gadgets, illustrated their impact with the Hughes and the Simons, two of 20 families being studied in southeast England, including inner London and Slough. The Hughes, a low-income family living in

a cramped three-bedroom council flat in inner London, have two children and a home filled with modern electrical machines but old-fashioned values. Janet, the ten-year-old daughter, is being taught her social place through "a progressive mastery of the kitchen technology", and son Peter has the computer in his bedroom, where it is closely guarded from his sister and where computer games rule.

He goes to sleep with his own colour television set on because "since falling asleep in front of the television as a baby he now cannot go to sleep without it", said Dr Silverstone.

Very little is fully shared between all family members, with the son happy to listen to music on a Walkman, father on an earphone plugged into his prized stereo. Mother's greatest pleasure is an hour watching her favourite soap.

The way the machines are used may reflect the family's increasing feelings of isolation, and parochial views of the world, with a nearby London borough considered a million miles away. The gadgets also appear to defend the Hughes from a society apparently changing for the worse and perceived to be becoming less comfortable and more threatening.

The Simons, another family being studied for the Economic and Social Research Council, contrast sharply with the Hughes from a society apparently changing for the worse and perceived to be becoming less comfortable and more threatening.

A confident, middle-class family, they live in two converted terrace houses in an inner London suburb. Instead of existing in a blur of unfocused electronic fog, they have made gadgets their masters.

A camera linked into a video and a

television set is helping the children with their drama courses, an intercom allows the mother to wake the children for breakfast without climbing the stairs, a sensor switches off lights left on, and the children are allowed to use the father's personal computers, on which games are banned to ensure the machine appeals to girls as well as boys.

Dr Silverstone said the evidence from the studies was that evaluating the impact of modern technologies on home life is far from simple.

The evidence indicates that gadgets are not in themselves harmful items which will damage family life but rather that they reinforce stereotypes, gender difference and general outlooks. "All information and communication technologies are double edged... all of them can separate or connect," Dr Silverstone said.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

HISTORY

James Stewart-Moore looks back over 50 years to the drama - and near-tragedy for the Allies - of the attack on the Bismarck Page 12

OPERA

Sir Harrison Birtwistle's epic work *Gawain* will soon be unveiled - but what chance does it have of long-term success? Page 13

COMMENT

Higher education reform is, Jonathan Clark argues, a harkening back to the past - and the ideals of Adam Smith Page 14

Mortgage hope

The government is pressing building societies to lower mortgage rates for borrowers who are not due for a cut until next year. Page 20

Fighting back

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, has won backbench support for his more assertive line on hospital trusts. Page 2

Drugs 'revenge'

The father of Patricia Cahill, who was jailed for 18 years in Thailand on heroin smuggling charges, has threatened revenge on the men he believes duped her. Page 3

INDEX

Arts	13, 18
Births, marriages, deaths	16, 17
Classified	10, 11, 17, 30-35
Court & social	16
Crosswords	17, 20
Law Report	36
Leading articles	15
Letters	15
Life and Times	12
Obituaries	16
Parliament	7
Property	33, 35
TV & radio	19

Arts Council agonises over sub-text of demand for savings



Renton: Intervened to order the savings

THE Arts Council meets today to decide how to save £1 million a year. But hidden in the agenda for the 20 members will be a more fundamental question: does the council, in its present form, have any purpose?

The savings were ordered by the arts minister, Tim Renton, in his latest intervention in the recast council. Its funding powers have been transferred to new regional boards and the council has become a strategic body. Anthony Everitt, the secretary-general, is expected to recommend that half the £1 million should be found from the council and half from the boards, but the recommendation is already

with the minister. One council member said: "A number of us believe we have reached the bottom line. Either we have a job to do or we haven't. At the moment we are little more than an extra secretary for the minister."

Mr Everitt was asked by the minister on April 24, via Lord Palumbo, chairman of the council, to report by May 17 on how the savings could be made. The secretary-general said he needed the approval of the council for any recommendations, and the deadline was extended until after today's meeting. However, the draft was on the minister's desk by last Friday.

Uncertainty over the future will hang over today's meeting of the Arts Council, which has to save £1m. Simon Tait reports

Simon Mundy, director of the National Campaign for the Arts, said: "There are doubts in the minds of politicians on all sides about the point of keeping the Arts Council. It certainly does not have the starring role it had; that belongs to the chief secretary to the treasury, because he has the money, with the arts minister as co-star. The Arts Council is vying for a supporting role only."

Mark Fisher, shadow arts minister, said: "We have had six months of real crisis in the arts and nothing from the arts minister except his refusal to accept the advice of the Arts Council on devolution of funding."

The council presented a preliminary list of 28 clients, with no more delegations expected before October 1992, but with the loss of 50 council posts and the addition of 15 in the regions. The minister gave his approval to these measures, but demanded the extra savings.

Another council member said: "There is a place for the Arts Council, but not when it is treated with such scant courtesy. We are being asked to take the consequences of other people's policy decisions."

Other members believe the fault may lie within the council. Anthony Smith, president of Mag-

dalen College, Oxford, and a former director of the British Film Institute, said: "I don't feel that the Arts Council is a confident institution. It has no strong sense of its own history or of the direction in which it wants to go."

Morale is low among the 180 staff, and not only because 50 jobs are to go before a further £500,000 a year is saved. Many believe that the chairman has little interest outside his own enthusiasms for modern art and architecture and is not an organisation man. They also feel that the secretary-general is not giving a sufficiently strong lead to the chairman, the council or the staff.

Tories back Waldegrave tough line on NHS trusts

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the embattled health secretary, has won overwhelming support from his backbenchers for the more assertive line he adopted on NHS hospital trusts. He said last night that he planned to expose six more Labour lies about the NHS reforms.

His promise of a renewed counter-offensive came after Tory MPs rallied to his side at an unusually well-attended meeting of the backbench health committee. Jerry Hayes, the committee's secretary, said MPs were delighted that Mr Waldegrave had finally "taken the gloves off" by denouncing as lies Labour's claims that trusts were opting out of the NHS.

Mr Waldegrave said that his next target would be Labour's claim that the reforms were putting profits before patients. That was a lie because any savings made by the shake-up were ploughed back in to patient care. "I think I have identified about six [lies] and I am going to go for all of them in due course."

Earlier, Neil Kinnock had made clear that in spite of signs of backtracking by Robin Cook, his chief health spokesman, he was not retreating from his assertion that self-governing hospitals were operating outside the NHS. Mr Waldegrave then said that Mr Kinnock was digging himself into a "rhetorical hole" and contrasted his remarks with Mr Cook's more "careful" choice of words. Mr Kinnock would do his credibility grave damage.

Labour regards the health service as one of its strongest issues and sources close to Mr

Kinnock later made clear that they were pleased to have drawn the Tories onto their own territory. But a relieved Mr Waldegrave emerged from the private 55-minute meeting at the Commons with about 35 of his backbenchers to say he had been given full support for his efforts to "nail the Labour lie".

● The Royal College of Nursing voted unanimously at its Harrogate congress yesterday to support an emergency resolution calling for a halt to the second wave of trusts and GP fund holders until the NHS reforms had been evaluated. June Clark, the college's president, said: "We cannot and will not allow vulnerable patients to be used as guinea pigs in what is a gigantic, political, economic and ideological experiment."

The college is appealing to all its members to lobby MPs from all political parties to slow down the reforms and stop any more NHS trust applicants. The campaign will be maintained up to and after a general election, it said.

During the debate nurses gave evidence of trusts exploiting their freedom to set their own pay levels for new staff by imposing lower rates. Mike Tritton, an RCN convenor for west Dorset, said 30 new staff taken on at three trusts in his area were given new contracts including an increase in weekly working hours from 37½ to 40 and a 50 per cent reduction in sick leave entitlement.



Labour frontbenchers Harriet Harman, Joan Ruddock and Bryan Gould at the launch of the document at London Design Museum yesterday

Kinnock wants single body to run London

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party yesterday announced proposals to give London an elected body to plan its future and enhance its position as one of the leading capital cities of the world.

Unveiling his party's plan for a "lean and hungry" Greater London Authority, Neil Kinnock insisted that there would be no return to the large-scale bureaucracy and high spending of the GLC. "We are not interested in acts of political archaeology," the Labour leader said.

Although Labour's national executive has yet to decide how many members the body should have, senior party figures would like to limit the figure to around 50, elected annually and supported by a

staff of no more than 1,000. Before its abolition by the Conservatives in 1986, the GLC employed 22,000 staff and had an annual budget of £1 billion. The Inner London Education Authority, which was disbanded last year, employed 24,000 administrators and 20,000 teachers on a similar budget.

The authority would have responsibility for strategic planning, transport and housing, and would take over the fire service and waste disposal, which were passed to separate quangos when the GLC was abolished. The body would also have a police committee responsible for the Metropolitan Police, although it would have no powers to

intervene in operational matters. Labour plans to install the body in County Hall, the former home of the GLC.

Mr Kinnock said that proposals in an earlier draft of the document for a directly elected mayor had been rejected but the idea of electing members by proportional representation was under consideration. He said that London was the only major city without a city-wide local authority, it had the most expensive and least efficient public transport of any European capital and growing numbers of young people sleeping rough on its streets.

"London has turned into a city with a large divide between the well off who can

afford to live in it and the poor who have to live in it," he said. If action was not taken London would come "to resemble New York rather than European capitals such as Paris and Frankfurt."

The policy document, *London: A World Class Capital*, proposes substantial improvements in rail, bus and Underground services and cheap theatre tickets for Londoners. It includes initiatives to reduce pollution, improve public services, especially education and training, and to safeguard the prosperity of the capital by promoting business growth.

Among specific promises are the creation of a London leisure card that would entitle

holders to discounts on tickets for theatre and sporting events as well as reduce prices at museums and galleries.

Michael Portillo, the local government spokesman, said: "However Labour tries to disguise it this is son of GLC. There is no lack of co-ordination in London. This is just an attempt to bring back a body which was and remains unimpaired."

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, condemned a proposal to create a railway equivalent of the M25 by linking existing lines as "hype and bluster". It was a plan no Labour government could afford, he said.

Leading article, page 15

Plan to sell health care overseas

By OUR SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of health authorities and National Health Service trusts is planning to form a national consortium to market private beds in NHS hospitals to European patients.

The European Private Patients Group, consisting of 29 districts, trusts and directly managed hospitals, is approaching health professionals in Germany, Portugal, Spain and Turkey to test interest in sending patients here. Two London teaching hospitals, the Middlesex and University College hospital and the Christie hospital in Manchester are in the scheme.

The group, which is completing a nine-month feasibility study, says that over £10 million could be saved from using spare capacity in private beds in its hospitals - money that could then be used to cut NHS waiting lists. However, doctors and nurses yesterday expressed concern that the scheme could lead to expansion of private beds in NHS hospitals, particularly trusts, at the expense of NHS care.

Revealing details of the scheme at the Royal College of Nursing's annual congress at Harrogate, Jan Maycock, chairman of the Rheumatology Nursing Forum, said that the project could lead to a three-tier health service, with NHS patients in third place behind private patients and Europeans. She called for a group to monitor any expansion in private beds and any detriment to NHS resources.

Polytechnics face three-year wait for benefits of university status

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

POLYTECHNICS will have to wait up to three years before they can call themselves universities. Legislation on higher education will not be introduced until after the general election, and the Privy Council will then have to approve all name changes.

Legislation on further education and sixth-form colleges, which are to be removed from local authority control, will take priority in the legislative programme. A bill will be announced in the Queen's Speech next autumn.

The government announced in a white paper on Monday that it would allow polytechnics to adopt the title of university. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, promised yesterday to consider ways of enabling polytechnics to use their new titles immediately as an aid to student recruitment. However, legal complications and potential disagreements with neighbouring universities may make this impossible.

Polytechnics are most anxious to use their new titles to clarify their status with overseas students. Even before Monday, some polytechnics had been threatening to describe themselves as universities on recruiting missions abroad.

In the House of Commons yesterday, Dr Keith Hampton, the Conservative MP for Leeds North West, said that polytechnics would be able to enhance their appeal as a result of abolishing the "artificial barrier" between them and universities. He asked Mr Clarke: "Will you now use your powers to change the names of any polytechnics who wish to change, so to avoid what would be a three-year market-

ing blight?" Mr Clarke replied: "I will consider the possibility of allowing name changes in the interim period, although my belief is we may have to wait for the necessary legislation to go through Parliament. I do accept that in overseas contacts, polytechnics are unfairly disadvantaged."

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, which will debate two emergency motions on the white paper at its

annual conference next weekend, welcomed the change of status for the polytechnics yesterday, but expressed concern about the fate of the smaller higher-education colleges.

Polytechnic administrators were picking their brains to come up with suitable new titles yesterday. Even those who had argued against abandoning the polytechnic title were preparing to fall in with the majority.

Labour record is attacked

MINISTERS yesterday redoubled their efforts to take the political initiative on education by attacking Labour authorities' record on keeping pupils in education beyond the compulsory leaving age (John O'Leary writes).

Labour authorities filled 23 of the 25 places at the bottom of a league table of staying-on rates for pupils beyond the age of 16. Only five of the top 25 were controlled by Labour.

Tim Eggar, the education minister, said: "There are

alarming differences between authorities. They cannot all be explained by differences in social background. The record of some Labour authorities is depressingly and almost inexplicably low."

The figures for 1989-90, disclosed in a parliamentary written answer, put Brent, the north London authority now under no overall control, at the top of the list for 16 year-olds in full or part-time education with 92 per cent staying on. Conservative-controlled

Harrow had the best record for full-time courses.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "The Tory party has been so driven back in local government that these days it represents in the main only prosperous areas like the home counties where there has been a strong tradition of staying on post 16. They control just one of the 36 metropolitan authorities, while Labour controls everywhere else, including very deprived inner-city areas."

90 small councils face charge-cap

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 90 councils, many Conservative, risk being charge-capped next year as a result of an announcement yesterday that the government is to extend poll tax capping to cover councils that spend less than £15 million a year.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, used a Commons written answer to announce that a new local government finance bill would be tabled tomorrow extending capping powers to cover all councils.

The bill, expected to become law before Parliament takes its summer break, will include statutory powers enabling the Inland Revenue to begin formal property valuations for the new council tax.

Up to now 267 local authorities, all small district councils outside London and the conurbations, have been exempt from capping because their budgets totalled less than £15 million. The exemption was granted because ministers thought it not worthwhile to pursue councils whose spending contributed only a fraction of the £40 billion spent by local government in England each year. The change of heart

has been prompted by the need to hold down council spending in the run up to the introduction of the council tax in 1993.

Ministers know that if spending rises above official targets in the interim it will be impossible to deliver council tax bills at the average of £361 per household promised by the government.

The new capping rules will be extended to Scotland and Wales, where the existing powers have yet to be used by ministers.

Mr Heseltine said: "Stronger capping powers are necessary to enable the government to protect all chargepayers from excessive spending by local authorities."

Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, said the move showed that government had abandoned the "pretence of protecting the last vestiges of local government independence."

Roy Thomson, Conservative leader of the Association of District Councils, said he was "shocked that the government should attack many of its own supporters in local government."

Agreement in Ulster only on Job

There was still no decision yesterday on when, or whether, the political parties in Northern Ireland will gather to discuss Peter Brooke's political initiative on the province (Tim Jones writes).

With time running out in the ten-week process, Mr Brooke, the secretary of state, met, for the eleventh day, Dr Ian Paisley and James Moynihan, the Unionist leaders, to try to achieve a formula which will enable the process to proceed.

It seemed that the only common ground between Mr Brooke and Dr Paisley was that they both commended the patience of Job to waiting journalists.

● Two IRA gunmen yesterday murdered a Belfast businessman, Wallace McVeigh, aged 45, because his firm supplied the security forces with fruit and vegetables.

Electricians vote for action

Leaders of the EETPU electricians' union are likely to press News International, publishers of *The Times*, for talks on union recognition following a ballot vote announced yesterday that showed a 6-1 majority among EETPU members who voted in favour of industrial action.

The ballot was held over the company's decision, now implemented, to reduce the 800-strong production workforce by 185, and to introduce a shift system based on five-yearly rotation.

The EETPU claims a majority of the plant's workforce are union members, but distributed only about 250 ballot papers. About 80 were returned. Of those, a strike was rejected by about 40 votes to 33, but industrial action short of a strike was approved by about 60 votes to 10.

Head's damages

Ray Honeyford, the former Bradford headmaster involved in a race dispute, yesterday accepted £20,000 libel damages in the High Court over an article in a Commission for Racial Equality pamphlet, which, he said, accused him of spreading racism. The commission and Professor Bhikhu Parekh, the article's author, also agreed to pay Mr Honeyford's costs in settlement of his action.

Counter strike

Counter staff at main post offices are preparing for strike action after pay talks broke down yesterday. Alan Tuffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, said that he expected action to begin over the next week and result in selected closing of offices. Sorting and delivery services would not be affected as they were a separate business, he said.

GPs urge curbs

Lurid reporting of "dirty doctor" cases will be outlawed if a proposal at today's General Medical Council meeting is taken up. Members will be asked to recommend that the Council consider restricting press reporting of all but the bare details of sexual misconduct hearings. Sir Robert Kilpatrick, GMC president, said doctors were concerned about the "salacious" details given by some sections of the media.

Headless body

A man's head was found in a street yesterday half a mile from its body, police said. The torso, wrapped in a blanket, was discovered by a school caretaker early in the morning in the drive of James Elliman school, in Slough, Berkshire. Thames Valley police closed the school temporarily.

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Patricia Cahill's family speaks out as she begins 18-year-sentence in Thailand

Jailed girl's father vows revenge on 'real drug culprits'

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE father of Patricia Cahill, who was jailed for 18 years on heroin smuggling charges in Thailand yesterday, has threatened to take revenge on the men he believes duped her into carrying the drugs.

Patricia Cahill was speaking moments after his daughter, aged 18, was found guilty by the Bangkok juvenile court of trying to smuggle nearly 60lb

of heroin, worth £4 million, through the city's airport on July 18 last year. Mr Cahill said: "This is my reaction to the people who set my daughter up. I am coming for you. That's it, I am going to get them, no messing." He "would truly hope" that when certain information reached the British police they would "act swiftly and make no

mistake this time". In England, Cahill's uncle, James Cahill, said she was "conned" into carrying the drugs. "It took thousands and thousands of pounds to set that up. The people who set her up, they're out there now laughing at her now."

"She didn't plan it. She never had the money to buy the drugs, she never had the money to buy the tickets. They were all done by other people. Why haven't these people been brought up?"

Patricia Cahill, dressed in school uniform of white blouse, blue skirt and white socks, left the court with her head bowed. She had broken down as the sentence was announced. Her father, who had flown with her mother Frances from the family home in Birmingham for the trial, said he was still convinced of his daughter's innocence and was considering whether to appeal against the sentence or seek a royal pardon. Mrs Cahill said: "We had expected something, but this seems a bit hard for an 18-year-old girl."

Cahill's grandmother, Catherine Cahill, aged 63, said: "I won't see her any more, I can't see myself living for another 18 years. I didn't think she would get that, I thought between three and seven years."

Cahill's friend who flew with her to Thailand last summer, Karyn Smith, aged 19, from Solihull, West Midlands, was jailed for 25 years last December after admitting the same charge in an adult court. The British consul, John Francis, who was at the closed hearing, said she would have received 25 years, but the judge reduced the term because of her age and because she gave helpful evidence.

A lawyer said an application for a royal amnesty would be made after a month because of Cahill's age and on the grounds that she was an unwitting courier. The heroin was found in food and shampoo containers in luggage which Cahill and Smith had with them as they tried to fly out of Thailand.

The pair, who were on their first trip abroad, said a Thai or Chinese man approached them at the airport and persuaded them to carry the containers in their cases. Cahill said she did not know the heroin was in the luggage.

Religious studies ease life inside

PATRICIA Cahill, who is from a Roman Catholic family, apparently turned to religion for help during her time in detention awaiting trial (Paul Wilkinson writes).

She was visited regularly by a Catholic priest, and consular officials sent her a correspondence course in religious studies. She was also contemplating an A-level course in English and was learning to speak Thai. Her mother said that she could write one sentence in Thai: "My name is Patricia Cahill. I miss my mother and father."

Even allowing for clemency from the court, Cahill, who left school with five O-levels, will have plenty of time for study. Foreigners jailed in Thailand are frequently released after completing half their sentence. Under a prisoner exchange agreement, Cahill would be eligible for a transfer to a British jail after eight years.

Consular officials expect her to be moved from Bangkok's juvenile detention centre to the city's Klong Prem women's prison immediately. Her lawyer, Putri

Kuvavonda, said that she had asked for the transfer because she was lonely in the centre, where she was the only foreigner.

John Francis, the British consul, said that Cahill would face a much stricter regime at the women's prison than that of the juvenile centre. "There they had proper beds but here she will be sleeping on a mattress on the floor." Nevertheless the jail appeared to be well-run, was clean with a good library, and she would be able to talk to other prisoners there.

Staff from the British embassy in Bangkok have visited Cahill regularly since her arrest. Mr Francis said that although it was normal procedure for staff to see British prisoners held in Thai jails, officials tried to make the visits more frequent because she was so young. The wife of one embassy official had "adopted" Cahill and saw her every week.

Cahill's parents, who said that their daughter had been a drug-hating moralist but fell in with the "wrong crowd", were expected to make their first visit today.



Shocked: Patrick and Frances Cahill in Bangkok, weeping after learning of their daughter's sentence



Under a shadow: Patricia Cahill on her way to the Bangkok court for the verdict

Pennine freight link urged by think-tank

By MICHAEL DYNES

TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for a new trans-Pennine transport corridor, designed to improve rail and sea links between the north of England and continental Europe, were published in a report by a local government think-tank yesterday.

The £300 million plan, from the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, would help to relieve "traffic congestion in London and the South-East by providing an alternative freight corridor to the traditional north-south routes to the Continent, the report, *Green Links To Europe*, said.

The scheme, which has been endorsed by John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, envisages a three-stage development process tailored to attract increasing amounts of road freight destined for Scandinavia, Germany, and eastern Europe to new and upgraded rail facilities at key west and east-coast ports.

Phase one of the scheme would be a £10 million investment to restore rail freight links to Merseyside and Humberside. Phase two calls for the investment of £100 million to provide new train ferries so that freight can be transported to continental destinations. The final phase of the scheme, to be undertaken once the route had attracted enough freight, would be the electrification of the Merseyside-Humberside route at about £190 million.

Flawed forecasting and information procedures are responsible for the transport department's failure to anticipate the scale of repairs needed to the national road network, according to a report published today by the National Audit Office. The report says that the condition of the network is much worse than previously thought, forcing a big expansion of the transport department's road maintenance programme.

some of its original iron and wooden fittings which help to explain the way the fun operated." The land bought by the trust is topped by Warsett Hill, a spectacular vantage point on the coast affording sweeping views, west to Teesside and east to Boulby and Staithes. It is crossed by the Cleveland Way coastal footpath.

A spokesman for the trust said yesterday: "The acquisition of Hunt Cliff will safeguard the views across the cliffs and guarantee that no adverse development takes place to spoil this remote and windswept place."

National Trust ownership will also ensure better access for the public by upgrading existing footpaths and extending the paths network to allow access to the summit of Warsett Hill.

QC tells of prison riot signs

AN inmate died when he started a cell fire during one "of the worst series of prison riots in the history of the British penal system", a court was told yesterday.

Cell doors were torn from their hinges and thrown with furniture and other items during a riot at Dartmoor. Prisoners climbed to the roof and fires were seen but nothing could be done about them, Philip Mott, QC, for the prosecution, told Winchester crown court.

One prisoner died when he started a fire in his cell into which he had apparently locked himself. Mr Mott said it was not suggested that any of the 12 men before the court caused his death. They deny charges of riot and violent

disorder in the disturbance in April last year.

Mr Mott said the riot was relatively small compared with that at Strangeways prison, but it caused substantial damage.

There were 600 prisoners in Dartmoor with 133 in D wing and in the previous week, after the Strangeways disturbances, there were some reports that trouble might be brewing in D wing. The riot started when a prisoner poured a jug of water from the top landing. Other items including cell doors and furniture were thrown on to the safety netting.

Some of the prisoners quickly produced masks made from pillow cases with eye holes cut in them, "showing quite clearly they had been

ready-made and pre-planned", Mr Mott said.

Officers evacuated D wing and inmates were taken out but about 100 remained. Two prisoners from C wing joined them. Skylights were smashed and prisoners climbed on to the roof, where they tore up sheeting and threw it on prison officers below. A medical cabinet and tranquilisers were taken.

The accused are Joseph Collins, James Selby, Kevin Leigh, Andrew Hurley, Ian McRitchie, Frank Hale, Lee Phillips, Gary Yallop, David Palmer, James Morrison, Jeffrey Young and Roy Jones.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Strangeways filelist, page 5

Tebbit denies slander over nuclear gibe

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

NORMAN Tebbit was accused in the High Court yesterday of slandering a Labour council leader whom he had blamed for squandering £50,000 of ratepayers' money on a "damn-fool" scheme to print an anti-nuclear slogan on council stationery.

The Conservative MP for Chingford and former Tory party chairman, who denies slander and libel, will give evidence later this week over remarks he made during the Derbyshire West by-election campaign in May 1986.

Mr Tebbit sat in the front row of the well of court 13, only feet away from David Bookbinder, leader of Derbyshire county council, who is suing him for damages.

The jury was told that at a meeting in Matlock in support of the Conservative candidate, Mr Tebbit attacked Mr Bookbinder over the council's decision to print "Derbyshire county council is a nuclear-free zone" on its envelopes and writing paper. After the policy was implemented on departmental stationery, council lawyers advised that it was in order to recall stationery from 500 schools for addition of the slogan.

Mr Tebbit told the meeting: "The £50,000 spent on printing anti-nuclear statements on council schools' stationery was a damn-fool idea. I hope

that Councillor David Bookbinder has also told the Russians of Derbyshire's nuclear-free policy. If not, it's arguable that he has lost £50,000."

Mr Tebbit, a former trade secretary, agrees that he made the remarks, which were reported in the *Derby Evening Telegraph* under the headline "Rap for 'damn-fool' county nuclear policy", but says they were true and fair comment on a matter of public interest.

Alan Newman, QC, for Mr Bookbinder, told Mr Justice Drake that the question at the heart of the case was whether the council spent £50,000 on over-printing stationery and whether its leader was responsible for whatever money was allegedly squandered.

Mr Newman said: "I don't know whether Mr Tebbit agrees, but he is often controversial and newsworthy. I'm sure he will forgive me if I say that he is no shrinking violet. I know that *Spitting Image* goes far too far, but he can be aggressively outspoken."

Mr Tebbit's word "lost" meant that Mr Bookbinder had squandered the money.

Mr Newman added: "In a democratic society it is important that people should be able to express their opinions freely on matters of public interest provided that the opinions so expressed are fair. Truth is always a defence to any libel. It is also a defence to any libel that the opinion expressed amounts to fair comment. Politicians such as Norman Tebbit, should not be too thin-skinned."

However, there came a point at which anyone was entitled to object when the truth was overstated. The cost of over-printing the stationery was minimal, and, at most, only about a quarter of the figure quoted by Mr Tebbit. Mr Tebbit had shown "unreasonable antagonism" in subsequent correspondence in which Mr Bookbinder sought an apology and a retraction. Court proceedings were the only way that Mr Bookbinder could obtain public vindication. Mr Tebbit, in his autobiography, had written, concerning a libel action that he had brought, that "libel, even of political opponents, is a serious matter".

The case continues today.

Laird lords it from the grave

A SCOTTISH laird who left more than £1 million in his will left nothing to charity because he had "seen an ever-increasing proportion of the proletariat growing into a most undesirable mass."

"In my opinion they deserve no help whatsoever," Colonel Stewart Allward stated in his will.

Colonel Allward, who owned Castle Salkar on Loch Linnhe in the western Highlands, died in February and left £1,218,737 to his family. He headed a family firm of solicitors at Warrington, Surrey, was a prominent member of the Rotary club and did a lot of charity work.

A spokeswoman for Shelter, the charity for the homeless, said: "We don't come across that sort of thing very often and we hope we don't come across it again."

Wren on Gulf ship faces sex charge

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A TRAINEE Wren and an officer serving together during the Gulf war are to be charged at a court martial over their alleged sexual conduct on HMS Brilliant, the only British warship sent to the Gulf with mixed sexes on board.

The court martial will be the first of its kind since the Royal Navy's decision to send women to sea. The trainee Wren officer and the other officer, a flight observer on the frigate, were sent home from the Gulf after their relationship was discovered.

HMS Brilliant arrived in the Gulf in early February with 20 Wrens - 16 ratings and four officers - among the ship's company of 250. The women officers serve on the bridge and specialise in navigation, meteorology, engineering and supplies. The ratings are primarily radio and

radar operators. Yesterday the defence ministry confirmed that there had been an incident involving a trainee Wren officer and said the date of the court martial would be announced in Devonport.

It is understood that the couple were summoned to see the ship's commanding officer. Both were treated relatively leniently and let off with a severe warning. They were sent home when the relationship allegedly continued.

The ministry would not confirm that the male officer is married. The couple are expected to face a charge of "direct disobedience".

Since the announcement about Wrens going to sea in February last year, warships have undergone alterations to include segregated sleeping quarters and separate showers.

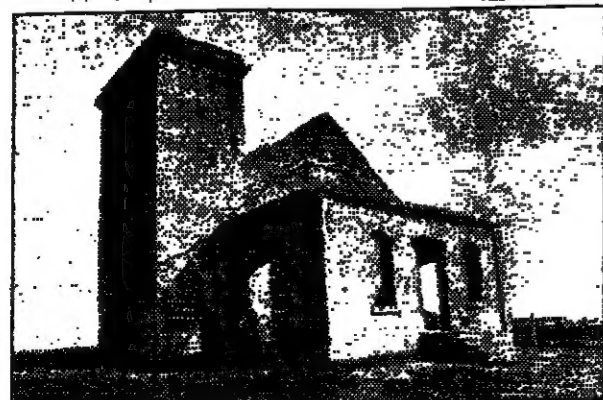
Trust buys slice of Cleveland coast

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE National Trust has acquired its first stretch of Cleveland coastline as part of Enterprise Neptune, an initiative to buy 900 miles of unspoiled coast around the country and protect it against development.

The trust announced yesterday that it had purchased, for an undisclosed sum, 153 acres of land along a three-quarter-mile stretch of coastline at Hunt Cliff, near Saltburn. As part of the deal the trust also acquired the Gubbal fan house, a rare and structurally sound relic of 19th century industrial development.

The fan house, standing about 10 metres high, was built in 1872 as part of the Hunt Cliff ironstone mine development by the Bell brothers. It housed a 15ft diameter wooden wheel and



Remote and windswept: the fan house at Hunt Cliff

undoubtedly the best preserved example remaining in Cleveland, and possibly nationally. At least 15 of these houses were built in Cleveland yet only two other examples survive, at Leazenby and Stelton Shaft Mine.

From an archaeological point of view, Hunt Cliff is almost unique. It retains

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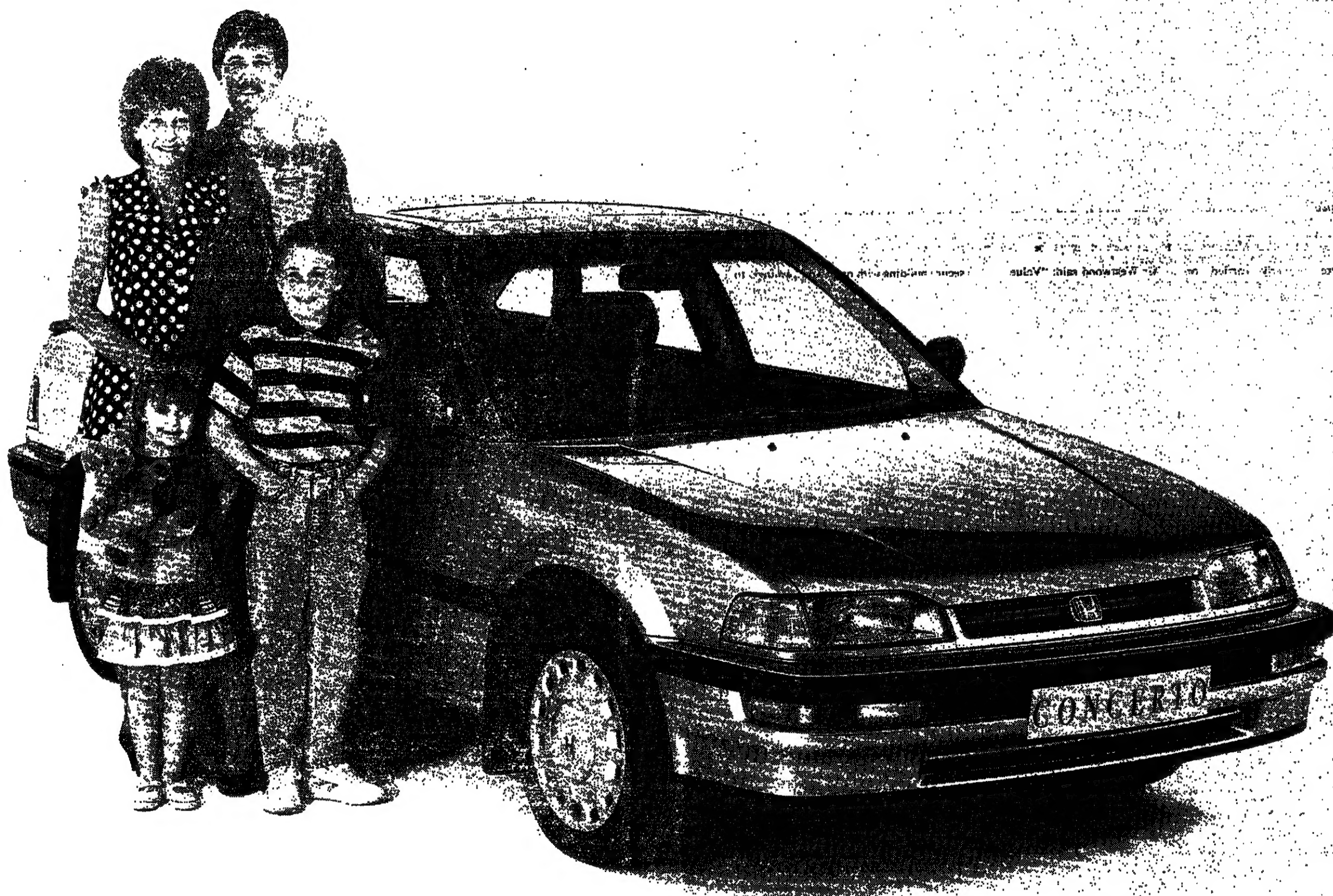
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Cabinet shuffle: workers dismantling and removing the Badminton Cabinet from the Tate Gallery yesterday. The cabinet was taken to Hatfield, the London restorers and packers, in



what was presumed to be preparation for its export (Sarah Jane Checkland writes). Philip Astley-Jones, of Hatfield, however, said the firm had received no instructions for nearly a year.

He has travelled with the 18th-century cabinet since it was auctioned by Christie's for £8.6 million last summer to Barbara Johnson, the Princeton-based baby products heiress. It has



been moved 14 times. Charles Allsopp, chairman of Christie's, and the Duke of Beaufort, the vendor, were also awaiting developments. Mr Astley-Jones said it was "virtually true" that

no money had changed hands since the auction. The trade minister has to sign the export licence after the expiry of the cabinet's export ban last Friday, but the department referred calls

to the Office of Arts and Libraries, where a spokesman said ministers - "plural that is" - were still considering the matter. "I think it will be dealt with quickly."

Diary, page 14

Overstretched police 'losing control of the streets'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces are losing control of the streets to vandals, thieves and drug dealers, the Police Federation's annual conference was told yesterday. Ian Westwood, chairman of the federation's Manchester section, said that police strength was being stretched throughout the country with too few officers on the beat and too many being diverted to specialist units. The result was "fire brigade policing", capable only of responding to emergencies.

Police work had become so dangerous that in Manchester, for example, bullet-proof vests were regularly carried on patrol vehicles. Mr Westwood told the conference at Bournemouth that was the case in many parts of the city, not just in Moss Side, which had recently had an upsurge of violence.

Mr Westwood's comments came on a day when several

delegates described manpower shortages faced by their forces. He said: "Fire brigade policing means we are losing control of the streets. If we lose control how can we possibly maintain public confidence?"

The police service had reacted to changes in society by increasingly relying on specialist officers rather than traditional policing. The public, however, wanted more men on the streets, and it was nonsense to say that because such police work was difficult to measure it must be inefficient.

Mr Westwood said: "Value for money is no value at all if the service we provide is not what the public want. We have seen the mess politicians, accountants and bureaucrats have made of that other retail service, the NHS. It's not too late to stop them doing the same to the police."

William Braben, a Merseyside constable and leader of the constable ranks in the federation, said that if police duties such as patrolling shopping areas and hospitals continued to be hived off to the public sector there would eventually be little left but "rump policing". How many recruits, he asked, would join the police to become "a fisticuff force of hard men carrying round cities like cavalry"? Politicians must tell the public that they would have to pay for a first-class police service.

The federation is demanding a general election pledge from the three main political parties to replace the police complaints authority with a wholly independent system. Alan Eastwood, chairman of the federation, said the public continued to believe that complaints dealt with by the police were not properly investigated.

Churches fail youth, says Billy Graham

By KERRY GILL

THE Christian churches have failed many young people who have turned towards drink, drugs and the devil in their search for a meaning to life, Billy Graham, the American evangelist, said yesterday, launching his first mission to Scotland since 1955.

Dr Graham, who is to hold three rallies, in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen, said that he had found that alcoholism, drug abuse and problems such as AIDS had grown since his previous visit. "While there are many causes of such tragedies, and I don't believe there are easy answers to why they happen, I do believe that one reason for them is that people today, especially young people, are searching desperately for some meaning and purpose to their lives," he said.

About 1,200 churches, representing all denominations in Scotland, have amassed almost 25,000 volunteers to help in the visit. The first rally is in Edinburgh on Saturday. By coincidence, the newly-installed moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, which opened yesterday in Edinburgh, is also a Billy Graham. The Rev Billy Graham, of King William's Town, South Africa, said that Christians had to strive against the missionary zeal of Islam and cults that formed part of "the powers of the dark world". In his opening address, Mr Graham said: "We see the progress of Islam as it presses its invitation to come to Islamic faith while the Christian church waits and even questions whether it has a right or an obligation to issue an invitation to have faith in Christ."

Other religions were spreading because they were zealous. They filled a void of spiritual need, albeit in the wrong way.

£7m facelift ends slopping out at Strangeways

Riot wings reopen as part of 'model prison'

By RONALD FAUX

THE remand wings of Strangeways prison, Manchester, damaged in riots that wrecked the jail last year, were reopened yesterday by Angela Rumbold, the prisons minister.

The restoration work, costing £7.4 million, took account of Lord Justice Woolf's recommendations for increasing security and improving jail conditions as well as the views of English Heritage and the Victorian Society. Strangeways, which is listed grade II, is an example of austere Victorian architecture.

The first prisoners will move into the improved wings in July. They will find a lighter, more congenial and more secure building with one prisoner per cell, sanitation that puts an end to slopping out and better exercise and recreation facilities.

From being among the worst examples of an overcrowded Victorian prisons, Strangeways is now described by the Home Office as a model of what the prison service would like to provide. However, Mrs Rumbold said lessons had been learnt from the riots and improvements had been going on for eight years and the work would have been done anyway.

Mr O'Friel said the building had been transformed. "At the darkest moment of the riot someone on the prison staff said to me: 'We always knew you wanted to rebuild the place but this is a bit extreme', he said. It had been one of the few cheery moments during the riot."

Architects of the improvement said that if the riot had broken out in the restored wing it could not have spread. Mike Bell of the Home Office works department said new metal grilles separated the wings and could be locked electronically, sealing off any trouble area.

Television cameras watched all floors. Each wing was self-contained with its own offices and services and the nimblest cat burglar would have difficulty climbing onto the roof. The roof slates used as missiles during the riot have been replaced by less dangerous material. Other security measures were being kept secret.

Asked about reports that more violence was threatened in British prisons this summer, Mrs Rumbold replied: "I would be the most stupid woman in the world if I said it was not going to happen. I hope most sincerely that everything we are doing would obviate the necessity and the opportunity for that kind of thing."



As it was: Strangeways B wing after the riot



As it is: Mrs Rumbold and Mr Brendan O'Friel, former governor, at the restored H wing yesterday

Union refuses to debate tax claims

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRISON officers' delegates yesterday blocked an attempt to lift the secrecy over allegations of financial irregularities by some union officers.

Members of the Prison Officers' Association's conference at Southampton, Merseyside, rejected moves to force them to debate the allegations, which centre on an inland revenue investigation into expenses claimed and the tax liability of executive committee members.

Earlier this month, the High Court ruled in favour of a claim by the Brixton branch

Solicitors call for a justice ministry

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A MINISTRY of justice should be created to replace the system of sharing responsibility for law and order between several government departments, the Law Society said yesterday.

Tony Holland, president of the society, said that the present arrangements, with responsibility spread between the Home Office, the Lord Chancellor's department and others, were expensive and inefficient and sometimes led to a "monumental shambles".

He said: "A vast number of different sections of Whitehall have some part to play in shaping the law and administering justice... No modern form of government can afford to divide responsibility for similar matters between different departments and expect to see any degree of efficiency."

Mr Holland, who was giving the annual law faculty lecture at Bristol university, urged that the formation of a justice ministry, under a minister in the Commons, be placed at the top of "all political agendas". The idea is already favoured by the Labour party and the Social Democrats.

He went on to describe the roles of the Lord Chancellor as government minister, speaker in the Lords, and head of the judiciary as outdated and inefficient. Referring to how the government's legal reforms go through the Lords, with the Lord Chancellor alternately sitting as speaker and then presenting arguments as the responsible minister, Mr Holland said that it would be difficult "to invent a more bizarre way to progress matters".

The speech coincided with the publication by the Law Society of a paper advocating a series of reforms including a new government department with responsibility for all courts, the penal system, legal services, law reform and judicial appointments, led by a cabinet minister chosen from the Commons.

Man 'raped wife three times'

A SPORTS coach appeared in court yesterday on three charges of raping his wife over the last four years.

The man, from Billingham, Cleveland, was alleged to have forced her to have sexual intercourse in November 1987, between January and March last year, and in February this year. He was also accused of an assault causing actual bodily harm last Sunday.

The couple, both aged 35, have been married for 17 years and have two sons. They have lived apart since last year. The husband was released on bail for a fortnight by Teesside magistrates on the applications of the Crown and his defence. He was banned from contacting his wife or entering the district where she lives.

Queen's cousin accident verdict

A distant cousin of the Queen, Nicholas Phillips, talked of killing himself just days before his body was found in a fuel-filled car in the grounds of his Luton Hoo estate, his widow Lucy said in a statement read to an inquest at Luton, Bedfordshire. In it she said Mr Phillips had told his sister he felt like jumping off a bridge but "would not because of me and the children".

She said since September 1990 he had become increasingly worried about his financial affairs. A verdict of accidental death was recorded after the coroner said the evidence of suicide was "very scanty".

Libel damages

The theatre director Michael Rudman accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages in the High Court over a *News of the World* report about an anonymous letter sent to his estranged wife, the actress Felicity Kendal, which alleged he was having an affair with a woman less than half his age.

Up in arms

A plan by Lord Falumbo, chairman of the Arts Council, to place 1,100 life-sized, red-painted steel soldiers in the grounds of his mansion near Newbury, Berkshire, are being opposed by his local parish council. Its objections will go to the Newbury district council planning committee.

Climbing taxes

A couple in Farnborough, Hampshire, have received poll tax demands totalling nearly £26 million. Rushmore borough council blamed a printing error and said amended payment books would be sent.

Bogus fine

A woman paid £50 to two bogus policemen who stopped her car near Crawley, West Sussex, and said she must pay an instant fine for having a faulty vehicle. The men wore what looked like a police uniform and drove a white car with a blue flashing light.

Trawler death

Chris Lilley, aged 21, a fisherman, of Rhyl, Clwyd, drowned after becoming entangled in nets while trawling off the Cornish coast. He slipped overboard from the trawler *Chisboard*.

BR pay deal

British Rail agreed to accept the recommendation of the industry's mediation service and offer employees an improved 7½ per cent wage rise BR had offered 7 per cent.

Halt demanded to wild bird trade

By KERRY GILL

CONSERVATIONISTS and animal welfare groups yesterday demanded a ban on the import of wild birds throughout the European Community. They said the multi-million pound trade was cruel and endangered many rare species.

Millions of exotic species are trapped in Africa, Asia and South America and brought to Europe, the world's largest market for wild birds. For every bird arriving safely, up to three die in transit.

A campaign to outlaw the trade within the EC was launched in London by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA). Each year, over one and a half million wild birds are imported into the EC.

Alistair Gammell, of the RSPB, said: "The wild bird trade has brought Spix's macaw to the brink of extinction. If this trade is not outlawed other species may

disappear." EC countries do not allow trapping, trade or export of their own native species for pets.

Trappers make little out of the trade, leaving the big profits to the middle men, many in Britain. A blue-fronted Amazon parrot will fetch about £120 for its Argentinian trapper. By the

time it reaches the United States it will be worth £250. Plum-headed parakeets, which make 25p each for their Indian trappers, will be sold in the UK for between £50 and £60.

The number of wild hyacinth macaws has fallen to less than 5,000 last year and only about 30 Bali

startings remain in the wild. A pair of hyacinth macaws was offered for £25,000 in Britain recently. Examples of Gurney's pitta are on sale in Thailand for almost £100 although only about 30 are left in the wild.

David Currey, executive director of the EIA, said the traffic in rare birds took place under the cover of the legal trade. "Thousands of these birds die and many species are being pushed to the very edge of extinction. Some have already disappeared from the wild." More than 76,000 birds were exported from Senegal to the UK in 1989.

The campaigners are to write to Carlo Ripa di Meana, the EC environment commissioner, asking him to support a ban. Caroline Jackson, Conservative MEP for Wiltshire, said the trade was supposed to be controlled by the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, but most of the trade was in species not covered by the convention.

RSPB team traps suspected dealers

AN RSPB undercover operation has resulted in the arrest of two suspected illegal bird traders in Thailand (Kerry Gill writes). Three investigators posing as bird dealers and carrying a concealed camera and microphone approached a Thai company trading in wildlife.

The team took film of a variety of endangered wildlife species and picked up a price list quoting sale details of the species. It also recorded conversations proving that the traders involved could supply virtually any bird requested.

VICTIMS OF THE WILD BIRD TRADE

Hyacinth macaw: Between 2,500 and 5,000 in the wild, mostly in Brazil. Pair offered for sale in the UK last year for £25,000. Trappers receive only a couple of pounds. Largest parrot in the world and considered to be under threat.



Plum-headed parakeet: Found in India. Trappers get about 25p and the bird sold in UK for between £50 and £60.

Gurney's pitta: Small tropical forest bird found in Thailand. May be 30 wild pairs left. Traders in Thailand offer them at £100 each. Conservationists worried about the bird's future existence.

Blue-fronted Amazon parrot: Found in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Birds fetch £120 for trappers, but on sale in USA for about £250. Sought after because it is particularly colourful and talkative.

Spix's macaw: Only one believed in the wild, but could be extinct. Some 40 believed in private hands around the world. Home is northeast interior of Brazil. Traders can name their own price.

Bali starling: About 30 left in the wild. Only one found on the northwest tip of Bali in a national park. Looks like a white starling with a crested mane on the male and black wing tips and black tip to the tail.

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Fixed needs of moving people

Local authorities are being urged to consider the needs of background people when they draw up their development plans. In a Commons written reply, Tim Yeo, an environment minister, said that draft guidance was being issued to local authorities in an effort to avoid disputes between travelling show people and local residents.

He said that although their work was chiefly peripatetic, travelling show people needed permanent bases to which they could return with their caravans, vehicles and fairground equipment. Increasingly, those sites needed to be occupied permanently by some members of the family, such as children who could then benefit from uninterrupted education, and by older people.

Protest over Canada office

The government came under attack from both sides of the House of Lords over its decision to close the office of the British consulate-general in Alberta, Canada, with the intention of saving £231,000 a year.

Lord Callaghan, the former prime minister, called for the decision to be postponed until after the visit of the Alberta premier next month. Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said the move would be seen as an indication that Britain no longer considered the province important.

Adoptions



A total of 238 Romanian children have been granted permission to come to Britain for adoption since December 1989, Peter Lloyd (above), a Home Office minister, said in a written reply.

Name change

Polytechnics may be able to change their names to universities before the institutions are officially merged by legislation, Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, indicated at question time.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. New roads and street works bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debates on fixed-term parliaments and on inner cities.

'Asset-stripping' Hanson attacked

By JOHN WINDER

HANSON was criticised as an asset-stripping conglomerate when peers discussed its purchase of 2.82 per cent of ICI's shares yesterday.

Lord Donoghue (Lab) said that it was undesirable that the heartland of manufacturing should be exposed to the plunder of such a predator.

The government attitude, reflected by Viscount Astor, a whip, was that there was no takeover bid and if there were one, it would be dealt with by the European Commission.

The question had been raised from the Labour front bench by Lord Williams of Elvel, trade and industry spokesman, who said that ICI had now, in the City expression, been put in play and considered itself vulnerable to takeover. "That involves serious diversion of time in ICI management. It is one of the major flagship companies and should not be allowed to be taken over, particularly by a company with the cavalier spirit of an asset-stripping conglomerate."

Viscount Astor replied that he understood that Hanson

had said that it had taken the stake for investment purposes. There was no takeover.

Lord Donoghue said that Hanson had one of the worst records in industry for research and development investment, significantly worse than had ICI. "It maintains its profitability to a considerable extent by running down research and development in companies it takes over, selling off, and making people unemployed."

Viscount Astor said that it was important for any company to remain competitive.

The Earl of Halsbury, describing himself as a contented shareholder in ICI, questioned whether it was right that the group should be at the mercy of an asset stripper.

Viscount Astor told Lord Rochester (Lib Dem), a former employee of ICI for 30 years, that the question of taking the views of ICI's 130,000 employees into account was a matter for the shareholders.

Government plans busy programme in case poll is delayed

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



Heseltine: to have three important bills ready

THE government is preparing a busy legislative programme to enable it to maintain momentum if John Major rejects an autumn election and continues into next year.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, and Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, are each expected to have at least three bills in the Queen's speech being drawn up for what would be the fifth and last session of the Parliament.

Accepting that a 1992 election has become a distinct possibility, ministers have decided to produce a full programme designed to prevent any impression that the government is merely marking time while the economy improves. The aim will be to counter any idea that the government is not ready to soldier on well into next year.

Although the cabinet's legislative committee will not finalise the contents until July, it is clear that Mr Heseltine will introduce two important pieces of legislation, one abolishing the poll tax and replacing it with the new council tax, and another setting up a local government commission that will conduct consultation about the future structure of local government and make recommendations.

He is bringing forward legislation in this session to extend his capping powers to the many local authorities at present excluded because their budgets are less than £15 million. Legislation extending the rents-to-mortgages scheme now operating in Scotland, under which council tenants can convert their rent payments to mortgage payments and buy a stake in their home, is also being prepared.

Apart from the bill to be introduced today for speedy introduction, imposing new controls on dangerous dogs, Mr Baker is expected in the next session to bring forward a charities and public collections bill to reform charities, improve the manner in which they present their accounts, and improve their scrutiny to guard against abuse and ensure they do not become involved in political activity. Legislation introducing a

MPs fear for disabled

By PETER MULLIGAN

TORY MPs voiced fears yesterday that inadequate support will be given to severely disabled people after the government's community care arrangements come into force in April 1993.

Nicholas Scott, minister for disabled people, told them that a new body will take over from the independent living fund, which pays allowances to the severely disabled now. But it will cater only for the fund's 7,000 present claimants and will not cover those who become severely disabled after April 1993. They will rely on help from local authorities.

Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, Tory MP for Newbury, said that the move cast doubt on the effectiveness of support and financing of the community care arrangements, and John Hannam, Tory MP for Exeter, said that he was concerned about the provision for disabled people of the future.

national fraudsters to be seized and confiscated. That comes after earlier legislation providing for the confiscation of the gains of drug-traffickers.

Peter Lilley, the industry secretary, is also planning another insider-dealing bill to bring City law into line with European Community directives. It may widen the definition of what is deemed to be insider dealing.

Other legislation will include a further education bill from Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, implementing his plans announced this week to break down the barriers between academic and vocational training and eliminating the distinction between universities and polytechnics. It is being described in Whitehall as the biggest education reform bill since 1944.

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, will introduce a bill to reform the procedures under which nationally important transport projects are dealt with by Parliament and to prevent their being delayed unnecessarily.

Other bills are being considered for the July deadline. Although Mr Major's citizens' charter is expected to be a central manifesto commitment, it is possible that a start will be made on it in the next session of this Parliament.

Major heads off Euro-revolt

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE prime minister led efforts yesterday to counter fresh signs of a Conservative split on Europe after more than 100 MPs supported a motion voicing outright opposition to a single European currency.

The motion, tabled by William Cash, MP for Stafford and a fervent anti-federalist, was couched in terms of support for the prime minister but appeared to be a warning to him not to give too much ground in the forthcoming Luxembourg negotiations on political and monetary union.

Mr Cash was unrepentant last night despite incurring the wrath of some of his colleagues over the timing of his motion, tabled as the Conservatives are trying to recover after recent disappointments including the Monmouth by-election defeat.

Some MPs said that they were planning to take their names off the motion. It appeared that some had signed under the impression that it had been supported by the whips' office. The office is understood to prefer that it had not been tabled.

The motion, backed by former cabinet ministers, including Norman Tebbit and Nicholas Ridley, expressed support for the government in its "non-acceptance" of the draft treaty, including the irrevocable fixing of exchange rates with a single currency.



Cash: he insists that Jacques Delors is his target

a central bank with majority voting, supranational law-making for the European parliament and a common foreign and security policy.

Downing Street said that John Major neither approved nor disapproved of the motion and in the

year and they are hoping to avoid any early clash in the parliamentary party. The Conservative Euro-sceptics are divided on tactics. Bruges Group sympathisers want to stop even the rest of Europe going ahead with a single currency and an independent central bank. The European Reform Group says that Britain cannot stop the rest and the Foreign Office tacitly agrees with that proposition.

Mr Cash says that his target is Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, and not Mr Major. He said: "I cannot see anything extraordinary about a significant number of Conservative MPs supporting the government on its own policy."

The motion appears to condemn any question of locked currencies at any stage. But although Downing Street says that it can see nothing with which to disagree, Mr Major's line is subtly different. He is happy to see the eventual development of a single currency (via the introduction of the hard ecu as a common currency, as opposed to a single currency) if that is the choice of peoples and parliaments. The government is sticking to the formula that it would not accept the "imposition" of a single currency.

Ministers are confident that no firm decision will be taken next month, but Mr Major's position could become more difficult if the election is delayed beyond October.

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Legacy of mass hunger and conflict as rebels force Ethiopian dictator to flee

Misery and rights abuse hallmarks of Mengistu's rule

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND ANDREW LYCEIT IN NAIROBI

MENGISTU Haile Mariam, military ruler of Ethiopia for 14 years, was one of Africa's bloodiest dictators who presided over unparalleled misery in his country: numerous purges, civil wars in the north, a war with Somalia, the wholesale transfer of population, a reign of terror by secret police, and two devastating famines.

He came to power amid a bloody revolution, caused in part by starvation and the Eritrean uprising, he fled as these twin evils, magnified by corruption and mismanagement on an unprecedented scale, finally threatened to engulf his regime.

During President Mengistu's rule almost two million people died from famine and war, and a further three million have fled the country. The president survived dozens of coup attempts, including at least nine in 1978. After the most serious in 1989, he carried out ferocious reprisals, parading the severed head of the coup leader in a parade,

squashing another general under a tank, dragging rebellious soldiers behind vehicles until they died, and herding captured rebels into a ditch where they were doused with petrol and burnt alive.

Little is known of his early life. He was born between 1937 and 1942, the son either of a servant in the palace of Emperor Haile Selassie or, according to the official biography, of an army sergeant. He entered the army and underwent military training in the United States.

Three years after the overthrow of the emperor in 1974, Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu, vice-chairman of the "Dergue" or military junta, seized power by murdering his fellow conspirators and carried out a national purge. By then Ethiopia was at war with Somalia, armed and backed by the Soviet Union. Colonel Mengistu encouraged the Soviet Union to switch sides, and Moscow poured in arms and advisers. After the defeat

of the Somalis in Ogaden, he went to Moscow and concluded a treaty of friendship in 1978. The Soviet Union quickly extended its influence, and in 1978 there were 1,500 Soviet troops and 3,000 Cuban troops and advisers in the country. Of these, 75 Soviet advisers were killed, the deputy chief of the senior Soviet general staff said yesterday. Those left were withdrawn last March.

However, to Moscow's annoyance, the Ethiopian leader was slow to transform his military regime into an orthodox communist state with a party apparatus and Soviet structure. A coup attempt by army officers more closely aligned to Moscow was suppressed, and the Soviet Union, which had thought him too nationalistic, threw its weight behind him. Later he set up the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, which he headed, becoming president under a new constitution in 1987.

Soviet arms were used to step up the campaign against the Eritrean rebels. Military spending rose steadily to account for more than two-thirds of the budget.

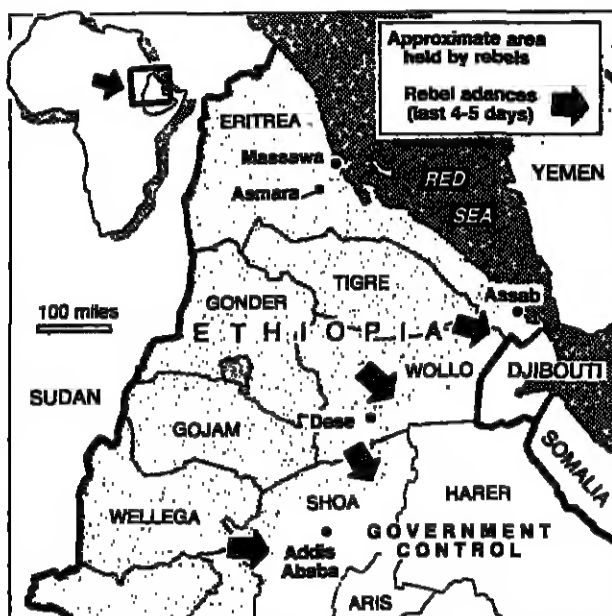
The country's economy declined steadily as Western aid dried up, and agriculture was disrupted by coercive moves to settle 700,000 peasants from the arid north in new villages in the south. The country was unprepared for the drought of 1984, which led to unprecedented famine.

For years the president surrounded himself with a crack North Korean praetorian guard and relied on the Soviet Union and its satellites for his economic thinking. But the drought of 1984-5 brought his country to the brink of financial disaster and forced him to reassess his Marxist rhetoric.

However a measure of economic perestroika was not matched by political concessions. He stepped up the purges of real and presumed enemies. In 1989, plotters took advantage of his departure for East Germany to stage a coup. They were thwarted by loyal soldiers.

By 1990 the twin rebellions in Eritrea and Tigré were gaining ground. Bowing to popular pressure, the president sacked the hardliners in his cabinet as the Ethiopian parliament agreed to a ceasefire and called for a government of national unity. Ceasefire talks with the rebels were due to begin in London last Monday, but were postponed for a week. However, President Mengistu, seen as the main obstacle, rapidly lost support and fled yesterday to Zimbabwe.

Mengistu's fall, page 1



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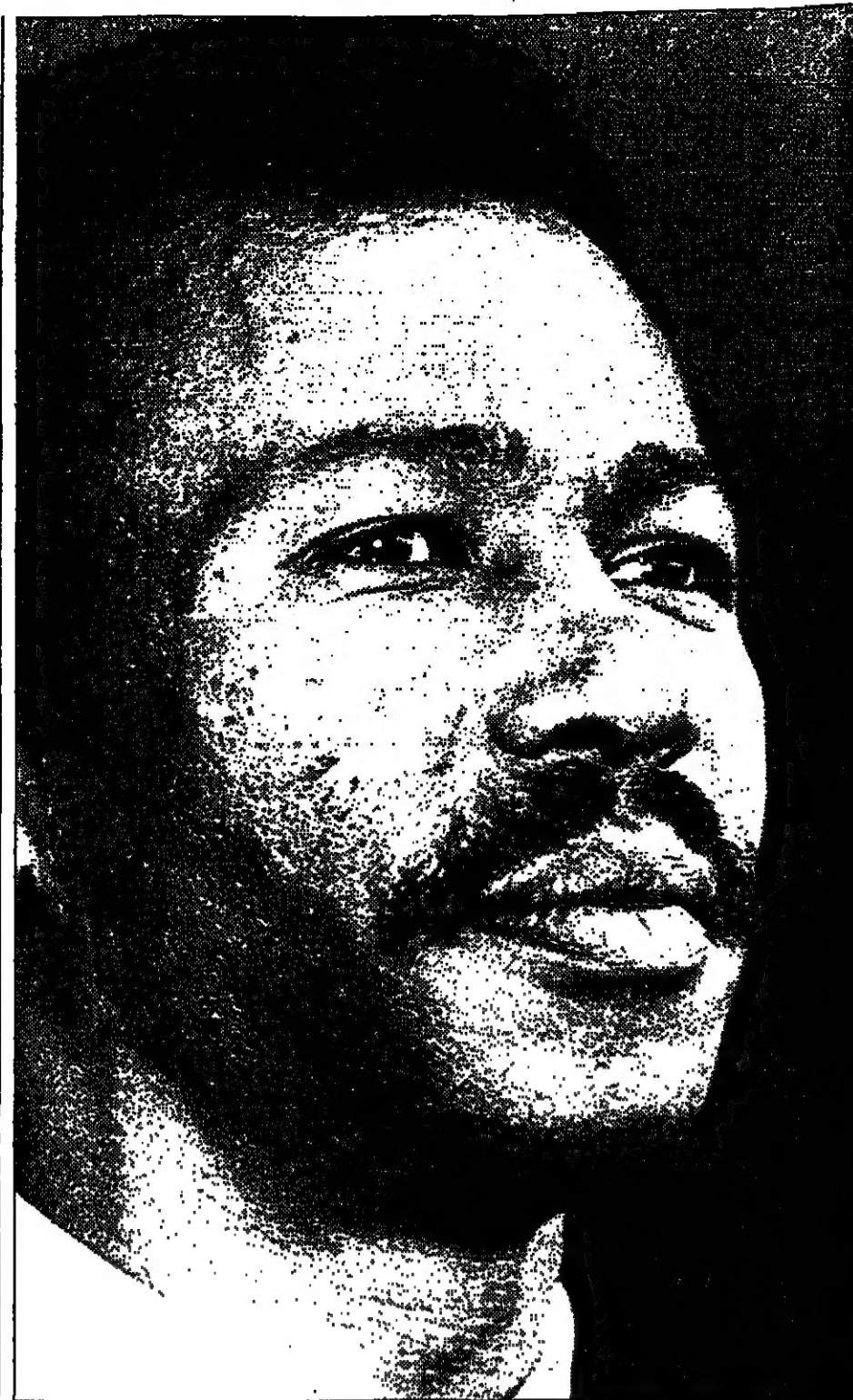


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The fugitive failure: President Mengistu came to power amid mass starvation and rebellion, two factors which ultimately contributed to his political undoing

Famine took second place to war

President Mengistu's record is examined by John Grover-Minto, director of studies at the English Community School in Addis Ababa for the past four years

THE fall of Mengistu Haile Mariam as Ethiopia's president, combined with grim pictures of famine being shown yet again on television, raise the question of what has happened to a country which only seven years ago received millions of pounds' worth of aid and promised to be better prepared "next time".

There can be little doubt that the regime of President Mengistu was incapable of mounting the sort of effort required to help the people in need and instigate long-term programmes which could have alleviated the effects of recurring disasters. Over the past 18 months - many would say longer - he had shown that his government was short-sighted and morally and financially bankrupt.

President Mengistu's record on human rights was one of the worst on the

African continent. There was strict censorship, imprisonment without trial and travel curbs. His bedrock of support, from Ethiopians who believed that a strong leader providing the basics of life was a good leader, was steadily eroded. Fuel is rationed and basic food prices are rising.

In a speech to the nation 18 months ago, President Mengistu declared that the 17-year-old "socialist experiment" had failed Ethiopia. Next day, throughout the country, socialist signs were either whitewashed over or removed. He became a laughing stock among the Ethiopians I

knew. Under pressure from the International Monetary Fund to devalue the birr and cut public spending, President Mengistu had been trying to show an "acceptable" face to the West by promising to liberalise trade.

But this resulted in little more than easing travel abroad for the middle classes, while setting up new businesses is still fraught with red tape. One Ethiopian businessman explained: "The government allows me to import a new car, but there's no petrol in town. I can open up a new electrical store, but they will not give me permission to import anything for it. I can

travel abroad, but can take only £25, and when I return, I cannot even vote in free elections." Just as remarkable was President Mengistu's about-face on the church. Once the whipping boy of the socialists, the church has been courted by the government in this strongly religious country. President Mengistu has sought its support with the possibility of the church regaining lands lost in the 1974 revolution.

Aid organisations, such as Save the Children, struggling against the odds, are fighting a losing battle in Ethiopia and will continue to do so until Ethiopia is at peace, perhaps as a federation of states, and without President Mengistu. Only then could the relief effort be co-ordinated, without interference from a regime bent only on maintaining its war effort.

Israelis fear for fate of Falashas

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

THERE was increasing concern in Israel yesterday about the fate of thousands of Ethiopian Jews stranded in Addis Ababa, after the escape from the capital of Lieutenant-Colonel Haile Mariam Mengistu, the former president.

Israeli officials refused to give any details about a possible rescue mission to save more than 10,000 Falashas, but it is understood their well-being is of paramount importance to the government. "We will do everything we can to ensure that the emigration of Ethiopian Jews will not be interrupted," a spokesman for the Jewish Agency, the semi-government organisation responsible for Jewish immigration, said yesterday. He refused to comment about speculation that Israel may be forced to undertake a dramatic rescue mission to save the Ethiopian Jews from, at best, an uncertain fate at the hands of the rebel forces now closing in on the capital.

The stranded Falashas run the risk of being harmed by the rebels, who have accused Israel of propping up the Mengistu regime, and may also find themselves caught up in the general anarchy which threatens to take over the capital with the imminent collapse of the government.

Ethiopia restored diplomatic relations with Israel in 1989, leading to speculation, denied by both countries, that Israel gave Colonel Mengistu arms in return for allowing Jewish emigration.

Military loyalist to head regime

By MICHAEL BINYON AND ANDREW LYCEIT

LIEUTENANT-General Tesfaye Gabre Kidan, nominated yesterday to succeed President Mengistu, is a long-time loyal associate of the former Ethiopian leader, regarded by some as a moderate but by others as a man closely associated with the fiercest attacks on Eritrean rebels in the early 1980s.

Three weeks ago General Tesfaye was named vice-president and was a member of a new cabinet headed by Tesfaye Dinka, the former foreign minister. He was put in overall charge of a national campaign to introduce democratic pluralism. He has recently said that military victory against the rebels in the north was impossible.

Born in 1936 of Tigréan stock, he is a member of the Nafaya clan. He graduated with Colonel Mengistu from Holeta military college, and was a member of the 1974 Dergue that overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie. From 1981 until 1986 he was defence minister, and launched Operation Red Star, the unsuccessful attack on Eritrean rebels in 1982. He then went to command military operations in Eritrea. In 1989, he presided over the court-martial of the senior officers who attempted a coup against President Mengistu while he was on a visit to East Germany. Twelve of the defendants were executed, though General Tesfaye was said to have disagreed with their sentences.

Returning recently as commander of the Second Army holding Asmara, the Eritrean capital, he was accused of holding up the distribution of Western relief that arrived at Asmara in January. The two rebel groups showed little enthusiasm for his new appointment yesterday. A spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front said that he had been closely associated with the policies of the existing regime for 17 years. However, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front said that it would be willing to discuss any constructive plan he proposed.

Western diplomats said yesterday General Tesfaye was less ideological than President Mengistu and was regarded as more moderate in his political views. Analysts in London said he had displayed little leadership quality until now, having remained in power mainly because of his loyalty to President Mengistu. A widow with three children, he is known as a heavy drinker and womaniser.

Assuming he survives in power, General Tesfaye is likely to seek compromise at the ceasefire talks between the government and its opponents that begin in London on Monday.

Zimbabwe farmers fall on hard times

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

ZIMBABWEAN agriculture is flagging under the heavy hand of government intervention. Formerly a vigorous exporter of maize that helped feed a continent, Zimbabwe is facing a large shortfall in the crop this year as farmers turn to more lucrative products.

But with famine facing certain parts of Africa, supplies for countries such as Mozambique, Ethiopia, Zambia and Botswana are increasingly hard to come by. The fault lies mainly with the centralised agricultural policies under which key produce is sold to the government at fixed prices. Price increases have not kept pace with the cost of production.

A shiver of panic went through the white farming community last year when President Mugabe announced that white farmlands would be acquired at prices set by the government under a scheme which would deny access to law for the farmers. Emmerson Mnangagwa, the minister of justice, now says that because of its complexity the new law will not be passed by parliament in the current session.

A combination of artificially depressed prices and the government's attitude to white land ownership means farmers are moving out of staples such as maize, beef and milk and changing to more lucrative lines such as fancy flowers for Europe and wildlife parks. Last month when the government set its prices for the maize crop the farmers

asked for \$2im320 (£62) a tonne, based on the need not only to meet costs but to develop the industry. They had to make do with \$2im 270 per tonne.

The declining production figures for maize tell their own story. In 1980 1.2 million tonnes were shipped to the central marketing board by farmers. This year the figure was some 500,000 tonnes, and reserves of the same quantity normally held for poor years or for export to needy African states are now non-existent. This year Zimbabwe will need 1.1 million tonnes for domestic purposes, regardless of the needs of neighbours.

The problems of the grain crop have been exacerbated by an unusually high level of demand for Zimbabwean tobacco now selling at US\$3.40 (£1.97) a kilo whereas last year it fetched US\$2.50. Land reform to try and free more land for peasants has not helped. More efficient farmers will increasingly be squeezed onto uneconomic sized plots. Zimbabwean peasants have tired of the complications of bank loans to develop their land and many are now content to produce only enough to feed their families.

But the politics of Zimbabwean farming has now gone beyond garnering votes at home to helping out other heads of state with their ballot box problems. When the World Food Programme came in search of maize for famine-hit states they were told there was none available.

Rebels urged not to attack

Islamabad - Scores of residents of Afghanistan's beleaguered city of Kandahar tracked Muslim rebels to their hideouts, implored them to abandon a plan to attack the city and told them that they would lose the people's support if the attack were made, a rebel spokesman said. (AP)

Policy switch
Peking - North Korea, in a surprise shift, apparently softened its hardline attitude towards normalising its relations with Japan and agreed to extend bilateral talks into a third day. (Reuters)

Nuclear denial
Algiers - Algeria has again denied press reports that a nuclear research centre was able to help produce weapons, saying it was for training purposes and could not recycle plutonium for military use. (Reuters)

House and home
Bucharest - The Romanian government has decided to use the nearly finished palace built by the late Nicolae Ceausescu as a headquarters for parliament. It will allocate a total of 1.4 billion lei (£137 million) to complete it. (AP)

Snake charm
Cox's Bazar - Two venomous cobras curled themselves round a boy aged 12 and saved him from drowning after he was washed away in last month's Bangladesh cyclone. Local newspapers said they deposited him on a beach.

Soap operas sing praises of birth control in Egypt

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

of four-minute dramas which have attracted audiences of millions.

The soap operas portray her dispensing advice and are praised by health officials for breaking down the traditional social, economic and religious obstacles to family planning in a mainly Islamic nation where many influential local imams still teach that curbing family size contravenes the will of God. "The media campaign

played the first and main role in the success we have established in reducing the rate of the population growth," Maher Mahran, co-ordinator of the population council, explained.

Viewers have watched a new mother learn which contraceptives to use while nursing and have seen one much discussed episode in which advice from an ignorant mother-in-law leads to an

unwanted pregnancy. In another story two young girls grow up and marry one happily because she limited her family to two, the other poor and ill because she had five.

Egyptian families now average 4.3 children, a big improvement on the seven of 20 years ago. But optimism is tempered by the fact that the reduction in births is not keeping pace with the decline in the mortality rate. As a result Egypt's population of 56 million still continues to expand by another million people every nine months.

Even with the world's largest primary school building programme - two new schools open every day on average - the debt-ridden Egyptian government is unable to keep pace with the relentless demands of the growing population, 40 per cent of which is now under the age of 15.



Mahar Mahran, co-ordinator of the population council, explained.

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Pretoria
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ANC snubs summit despite ban on spears

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress made it clear yesterday that it will not attend the two-day summit on violence called by the government for later this week despite the agreement reached between President de Klerk and Zulu leaders on a partial ban on the carrying of "cultural" spears and axes by supporters of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

The agreement is not considered sufficient to persuade the ANC to reconsider its decision to break off power-sharing negotiations with the government until it takes firm steps to bring violence under control.

The cultural weapons ban is expected to be officially promulgated within days and is likely to prohibit the carrying of them at political meetings in the Johannesburg region, which is the epicentre of the violence.

Senior ANC national executive members declared yesterday that the demand was a nationwide ban on the carrying of all dangerous weapons. "That is a position on which there can be no compromise," they said.

In addition, the ANC is not prepared to attend the summit because it was not involved in planning it. It says it has frequently warned Mr de Klerk that although he is president when it comes to

normalising the situation it expects to be fully consulted and not just co-opted and expected to fit in.

Nevertheless, the ANC is prepared to co-operate with the South African Council of Churches (SACC), acting as a neutral convenor, in setting up talks on violence, although it also seems certain that if a SACC-sponsored summit is arranged, both the government and Inkatha will find it difficult to accept invitation.

Dr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of Constitutional Development, reiterated yesterday that even without the ANC this week's conference will go ahead. There had been an encouraging number of acceptances, he said.

Margaret Thatcher held talks in Ulundi, capital of the KwaZulu homeland yesterday with Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, but ANC sources indicated that her long telephone conversation at the weekend with Nelson Mandela, ANC vice-president, had been a discussion of the situation in general terms and not particularly about the decision to break off negotiations.

They said the organisation's attitude to the whole issue of violence and negotiations was that it was not prepared to meet the government merely for further discussions, but that if it took firm measures to address the problem it would agree to meet. Some of the measures, they said, would be simple to put into operation.

The main source of violence were migrant worker hostels in the townships, and all that needed to be done was to fence them off and post guards to ensure that nobody entered or left them carrying arms.

The partiality of the security forces, the operations of the black, mainly Zulu 101 battalion and 32 Angolans, made up of black Angolans, and a "third force" in the townships, violence needed to be fully addressed.

The ANC remained adamant in its demand that President de Klerk should dissolve his cabinet, order his cabinet, although a senior ANC official said, he was a "charming chap". In any civilised country any minister who was unable to control violence which has claimed thousands of lives would be sacked.

President de Klerk called the summit to find ways of ending township violence that some researchers say has killed 1,800 people in the last nine months. The influential *Business Day* newspaper urged the ANC to attend the summit, saying: "Once the carrying of assegais (spears) is prohibited, the way is surely open for all parties to attend talks on violence."

The ruling National Party faces a test of white support for its reforms in a by-election in the Orange Free State constituency of Ladybrand today. In the last elections the seat was taken by a majority of about 80 votes by the Conservative party, which supports old-style apartheid.

Five others in hospital in the Cape were said by doctors to be nearing the "very high-risk phase" of their fast.

The release of political prisoners and the return of exiles are among the many blocks in the way of constitutional talks between the government and the ANC. The Congress of South African Trade Unions, an ANC ally, has called for a national day of fasting today in solidarity with the hunger strikers, and says it will mobilise a general strike if political prisoners are not released by tomorrow.

President de Klerk is to meet Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Cape Town tomorrow to discuss the strikes. The Anglican leader visited the hunger strikers in hospital on Sunday, and said that he hoped to prevent their fast ending in death.

Professor Roy Keeton, head of medicine at Somerset hospital, where the former Robben Island strikers are being held, said they were near the point where tissue damage becomes irreversible. They had agreed, however, to take a glucose supplement and therefore were not on a complete starvation diet.

Under the terms of last year's agreement between Pretoria and the ANC, all political prisoners were to have been released by April 30. The deadline passed with more than 1,000 people with claims to political prisoner status still in custody, according to lawyers for Human Rights, a monitoring group. The ANC figure is much higher.



Small talk in the big state: the Queen chatting to the former American first lady, Lady Bird Johnson, at a reception in Austin, Texas, held in honour of the royal visit. In a trip to the state legislature, the Queen was presented with a pair of custom-made cowboy boots and six smaller pairs for her grandchildren. Hundreds of schoolchildren lined up outside the capitol, waving flags and singing the national anthem and *The Star Spangled Banner*. At a reception later for local journalists, where cameras and recording devices were banned and all comments were strictly off-the-record, the Queen made small talk for about an hour. The Duke of Edinburgh was given a short tour of the Senate private-public consortium, where 14 American companies are developing techniques for the construction of semiconductors designed to make industry in the United States more competitive against producers in the Far East.

Delors faces long odds in healing Japan trade rift

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JACQUES Delors, president of the European Commission, arrives in Tokyo today on the first visit by an EC president to Japan in five years. He will extend the hand of political friendship that Japan has been seeking for years. Yet he will be unable, during his four-day trip, to get any closer to hammering out the tough bilateral trade agreements that European businessmen desperately want and the Japanese do not.

M Delors will discuss with Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese

prime minister, and Eiichi Nakao, the trade and industry minister, a joint EC-Japan declaration, modelled on last year's agreements between the EC and the United States and the EC and Canada. Calling for annual summit talks and frequent political and economic consultations between Japan and the EC, the declaration is likely to be issued at the Group of Seven summit in July. The Japanese, who suggested it in the first place, will be delighted because they believe it will turn down the

heat on tense bilateral relations.

EC officials in Tokyo, however, are already concerned that the declaration will turn out to be merely a grandly worded statement of intent that will not tackle the problems of Japan-EC relations. A senior trade negotiator in the Tokyo ministry of international trade and industry observed of M Delors's negotiating position: "He has no cards to play. We all know that the EC needs Japanese capital, technology and direct investment. Any calls for reciprocity are absolutely unacceptable for us. We are negotiating under GATT rules."

Japan's trade surplus with the EC swelled by over 79 per cent during April to \$6.31 billion (£3.6 billion) and EC diplomats in Tokyo believe the surplus could reach \$30 billion by the end of the year.

The Japanese, who accept that exports of cars to the Community will be subject to limits after 1992, are determined that cars made at Japanese plants in Europe should not be restricted.

● BRUSSELS: Talks between the European Commission and the Soviet government this week should clear the way for the start of emergency food aid first promised by EC leaders last December, commission sources said yesterday.

They said allocation of about half of the 250 million Ecu (\$174 million) of food aid should be announced. Allocation of the aid — chiefly baby food, milk powder, beef and pork — was held up for months because the commission was not satisfied with Soviet assurances that it would reach those in greatest need. (Reuter)

Cut-throat friendship, page 14

West boycotts Tibet festivities

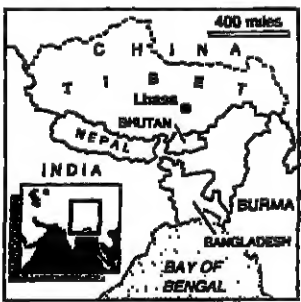
By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AS A nervous Peking pours troops into Tibet in anticipation of tomorrow's 40th anniversary of its annexation, Britain and the United States are leading a diplomatic boycott of celebrations marking the occasion.

Diplomats from several European countries are also failing to respond to invitations to celebrations in Lhasa, the Tibetan capital, and at Chinese embassies. Receptions, featuring film shows and propaganda booklets, are being used to try to counter sceptical world opinion, which has been bolstered by President Bush's meeting last month with the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan leader.

The absence of support from China's erstwhile allies in Eastern Europe and Africa means Peking is isolated as it tries to win most favoured nation trading status from America. In Lhasa, the mood is anything but festive. A curfew has been imposed which permits city-dwelling Tibetans to leave their houses only two hours a day and people from the countryside are being brought into the capital for the celebrations.

Leading Chinese officials began arriving in Lhasa over the weekend, headed by Li Tieying, a senior party figure. His presence is offensive to Tibetans as it was his father, Li Weihan, who led the Chinese team that forced the original Tibetan surrender.



FRENCH NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

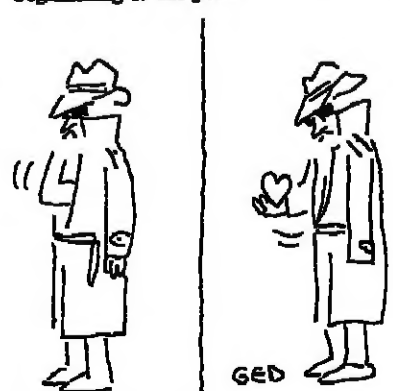
Pressing to shut the open door

France's long and honourable tradition of accepting fugitives from tyranny around the globe is coming under growing strain. In the past five years, applications for political asylum have more than doubled, to well in excess of 50,000, and every new upheaval brings more hopeful knocking on the door. According to the government's Office for the Protection of Refugees, there is no doubt that most applicants now fall into the category of economic refugees.

The most visible result, evidently reflecting the international gravestone's continuing belief that the French remain the most welcoming hosts, is that about 85 per cent of applications for registration as refugees are now being rejected. Ten years ago the same proportion were being accepted. While the actual number of people acquiring this precious status remains more or less unchanged at about 10,000 a year, organisations representing refugees accuse the authorities of operating a new form of immigration control. Two hundred applicants whose dossiers were rejected have been on hunger strike in Paris and elsewhere for the past month or more.

If their more dedicated supporters are to be believed, several are already close to death: not something that Edith Cresson, the new prime minister, would want on her plate so early on. Under Michel Rocard, her predecessor, the machinery for processing

asylum-seekers was given much-needed extra funding, but critics were still unsatisfied. As a footnote, which some might interpret more cynically than others, no Kurds have been expelled from France since the beginning of the year.



Like every suspected gangster of standing in France, Michel Zaza has a nickname, "The Madman", earned, one gathers, in the sort of territorial disputes that end in a burst of gunfire in the back streets of Marseille. Drugs and contraband cigarettes have for years reputedly provided him with a most agreeable lifestyle near Nice. Lately, however, being behind bars awaiting trial, he has been unable to enjoy it. The French police would love to

prolong this state of affairs for the next 20 years or so and are looking forward to seeing M Zaza in court in Marseilles next month. Security will be exceptionally tight, but arrangements are having to be made for the two nurses with a cardiac resuscitation kit who accompany him everywhere. He has been arriving at preliminary hearings in an ambulance with its siren wailing.

Let the message be still not getting through to the bench, M Zaza contrived at his most recent appearance to let his coat fall open to reveal some sort of valve taped to his chest. The prosecution might therefore prudently anticipate a full-scale courtroom drama when the trial gets under way, which it should already have done but for the judge himself falling ill.

Forget about Cannes and that ghastly film festival: the classic end of *le tour Paris* would not be seen dead there, preferring to parade in the lovely surroundings of Nîmes for the annual *feria* of bull-fighting. Despite a biting mistral wind, the fans turned out to watch expensive big names from Spain dispatch their victims with undiminished enthusiasm. There is extensive coverage in the French press. Even the left-of-centre *Libération* gushed with unabashed pride that, after Seville and Madrid, Nîmes stands far above other arenas.

Germans arrest politburo chiefs

From ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

TWO prominent members of the former East German politburo have been arrested after a rumour of an impending escape to Moscow led to a swoop on their homes and the blockade of the main Soviet military airport in Germany. Several Soviet personnel at the Spereberg base south of Berlin were searched, including an air force general.

Heinz Kessler, the former defence minister, and Willi Stoph, prime minister until the fall of the communist regime, were being questioned yesterday in connection with their role in the shoot-to-kill policy which led to the deaths of nearly two hundred people attempting to escape from East Germany since 1961. Police arrested Herr Kessler, a close friend of the erstwhile leader Erich Honecker, in his home after a tip-off that he was about to follow his comrade's example and flee to Moscow to avoid trial.

Herr Stoph and two officials from the national defence council were also taken into custody on Monday night. They are not thought to have been involved in the escape attempt. The justice authorities have not said who was responsible for the information that Herr Kessler was planning to flee, disguised in a Soviet army uniform, but it was considered reliable enough to create a full-scale alert.

Suspicious intensified when a neighbour told police that Herr Kessler's wife had said he would be away from home for some time to have medical treatment and visit his family. When the couple failed to return home on Monday night, the Soviet military airport and the roads surrounding it were sealed off.

The arrests are the first of former politicians alleged to have sanctioned the killing of escapees. A manslaughter warrant issued against Herr Honecker in March could not be carried out because guards at the Soviet camp where he was living obstructed police. He was then flown to the Soviet Union and the Kremlin has refused to hand him back despite protests by the German government.

Herr Kessler and Herr Stoph began their careers under East Germany's first leader, Walter Ulbricht, and belonged to the old guard. Herr Kessler is a former head of the East Berlin police and the national air force. Herr Stoph was interior minister, defence minister and finally prime minister before he was ousted from office in 1989.

Moscow fails to end arms deadlock

Washington — General Mikhail Moiseyev, the Soviet chief of staff, who was sent here by President Gorbachev, began a second day of talks yesterday having failed on Monday to end a deadlock over the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (Martin Fletcher writes).

American officials said the general had offered no important new proposals and President Bush said "not much progress" was made in five hours of talks with a US team. But administration officials hoped General Moiseyev might offer significant concessions at yesterday's meetings with James Baker, the Secretary of State, Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, and Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

Yeltsin claims year of progress

Moscow — Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, staked his claim to the new presidency of the Russian Federation yesterday by declaring that relations between Russia and the centre had undergone a thorough change in the year of his leadership (Mary Dejevsky writes).

He was chairing an unusually calm opening session of the full Russian parliament, the congress of people's deputies, which is to finalise the terms and constitutional definition of the new executive presidency, with perhaps little opposition from hardliners.

Polish stoppage

Warsaw — Polish workers angered by President Walesa's reluctance to change his government's economic course have gone on strike, paralysing transport in Warsaw, closing factories and forcing soldiers to clean the streets. The Solidarity union has called for further protests.

Agents of change

Prague — British and American secret services are providing equipment and expertise to rebuild Czechoslovak counter-intelligence in the post-communist era, according to Jan Langos, the federal interior minister. More than two-thirds of former secret police agents have been purged, he said.

Sakharov spirit

Moscow — President Gorbachev heard an outspoken attack by Elena Bonner, the widow of Andrei Sakharov, on his policy towards republics seeking independence. She delivered a fiery opening speech at a memorial conference for her husband, the human rights campaigner, on what would have been his 70th birthday.

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Israeli tanks move into Lebanon on eve of treaty

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

ISRAELI forces, using tanks, crossed the border into Lebanon yesterday and took up positions along the "security zone" in the southern region in what was seen as a sign of discontent with the treaty between Lebanon and Syria, due to be signed today.

Israeli artillery pounded Shia Muslim villages in an attempt to pre-empt guerrilla infiltrations into Israeli settlements. Security sources in Lebanon said that Israeli troops and armour moved into the Christian village of Jassine overlooking the port of Sidon, where the Palestine Liberation Organisation has its headquarters with some 3,000 guerrillas.

The sources said a similar force rolled into the eastern

sector of the zone, taking up positions in Shebaa, a strategic village located on a crossroads which links Lebanon, Syria and Israel. They said that Israeli gunners also fired on the villages of Sujud, Beir-Klab and Radar Hill in the south, causing no casualties, two days after the Israeli air force hit a Shia Amal militia base, killing four people.

Israel's military moves came after last weekend's guerrilla bomb attack in the zone, in which four people died. Press reports said that Israel had given a warning to Lebanon, via the United States, threatening to launch a military drive against the southern region because of increasing guerrilla activities. The treaty to be signed today ensures full political, military and economic co-ordination between Syria and Lebanon. The signing ceremony will take place in Damascus in the presence of President Assad of Syria and President Hrawi of Lebanon.

The pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army militia said yesterday that the agreement infringes on Lebanon's sovereignty and independence and would encourage Israel to block any diplomatic pressure to withdraw from the southern region.

Pledge by Sharon on settlers

Jerusalem - Ariel Sharon, the Israeli housing minister, has vowed to double the population of Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights to ensure that the territory never returns to Syria. He was launching a Jewish town in the area which was captured by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

The new settlement of Kanaf, on the plateau above the Sea of Galilee, coincides with a flurry of building in the occupied West Bank since America stepped up its efforts for a Middle East peace accord. Mr Sharon said that keeping the occupied territories would give Israel more confidence to enter peace talks with its Arab neighbours. But Arab states insist that negotiations must be based on an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied land. (Reuters)



Taking cover: Kuwaitis accused of collaborating with the Iraqis during the occupation by running the Iraqi newspaper, *Al-Nida*, waiting in court for their hearing to begin yesterday. The West has criticised the treatment of defendants by the martial law court in Kuwait City

Pressure grows on Bush to get tough with emirate

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

IN THE wake of widespread reports of torture and lack of access to defence lawyers for people on trial for alleged collaboration with the Iraqi occupation forces in Kuwait, the Bush administration faces increasing pressure from the public and Congress to toughen its stance towards the emirate.

Richard Lugar, a senior Republican senator from Indiana, said yesterday that Americans were rightly disturbed by media accounts of the rough justice meted out to several Iraqis on Sunday, when one man was sentenced to 15 years in jail for wearing a T-shirt bearing President Saddam Hussein's picture.

Editorial writers and columnists have begun to join the debate which, like the public anger at the slow White House response to the plight of the Kurds two months ago, threatens to catch President Bush's

team out of step with public opinion as he prepares to begin his re-election campaign.

Mr Lugar, a member of the Senate foreign relations committee who supported the use of force to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait, said the United States should use a "profoundly new relationship" with the emirate to influence its government and judicial system. His comments coincided with a growing number of questions from those wondering if the American-led military effort to liberate Kuwait was worth the cost, given the gap between concepts of democracy in the emirate and the United States.

George Mitchell, the Democratic leader of the Senate, described the trials as "obviously a mockery of justice by any international standard". The administration has responded ambiguously to the outcome of the first postwar

trials. President Bush expressed sympathy on Monday for Kuwait's wish to try those suspected of collaborating with Iraq during the Gulf confrontation, but he called on the government to "extend the fair trial to everyone".

The State Department, on the other hand, initially moved carefully. Later it released a statement conceding that complaints from Kuwaiti defence lawyers raised questions about the trials.

Kuwait's ambassador to the United States, Sheikh Saud Nasir al-Sabah, a member of the emirate's royal family, and Mr Lugar defended his country from what he called exaggerated media coverage of the trials. He reacted angrily to a description of the trials, by an independent human rights group, as a "travesty", saying that Kuwait's judicial system was similar to those in France and Egypt.

Kuwait puts staff of paper on trial

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KUWAIT CITY

TWENTY-FOUR people went on trial yesterday before a martial law court, which could order them hanged on charges of working for an Iraqi-run newspaper that slandered the royal family during the occupation. After hours of testimony, the judges granted a recess until June 1 so that defence lawyers can study the evidence against their clients.

The defendants ranged from the editor-in-chief of *Al-Nida*, the only newspaper allowed in Kuwait during the occupation, to reporters, translators and janitors. Most testified they had worked there out of fear, or to avoid being sent to Baghdad.

The recess came a day after Western criticism and concern about the treatment of defendants. The court tried the first of an estimated three hundred alleged collaborators on Sunday, and meted out stiff sentences in quick succession for six defendants. The sum-

mary treatment raised concerns about whether the defendants were getting fair trials and defence lawyers complained that confessions were extracted from some of the accused through torture.

Western nations are carefully monitoring the proceedings in the light of widespread reports of reprisals by Kuwaiti security forces against alleged collaborators. American forces led the assault that liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation on February 26 this year, and in Washington interest in the proceedings is high. President Bush has called on Kuwait to "extend a fair trial to everybody", while Martin Fitzwater, his press secretary, said: "We do have concerns about the justice system in Kuwait." Representatives from Amnesty International, the Red Cross and diplomats from America, Britain, Australia and Switzerland are attending the trials.

Sabbath trading stirs a rabbi's wrath

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

HE MAY look like a kindly old gentleman, but behind the white beard and charming smile, Rabbi Menachem Porush is a feared and mistrusted figure in Israel's secular society. His Knesset colleagues have accused him of trying to create a "civil war" between secular and orthodox Jews and even members of the coalition government he serves think he has gone too far.

Why this amiable great-grandfather, aged 73, who heads the ultra-orthodox Agudat Israel party and is deputy minister for labour and social affairs, attracts such controversy is obvious when he brandishes a thick file of newspaper clippings. Five Druse Muslim inspectors working for Mr Porush as religious police struck during the Jewish sabbath on Saturday. They found businesses open in Eilat, and served summonses on their owners for breaking sabbath laws.

The incident, the latest in a long line of raids, provoked the mayor of Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv to accuse Mr Porush of "ultra-orthodox vandalism". Many secular Jews believe that the minority orthodox population are abusing the balance of power which their representatives hold in the Knesset.

For Mr Porush, interviewed yesterday, the criticism no longer surprises nor does it offend, and he is determined not to be deviated from his course. "After 34 years in the Knesset I am used to it," he said. "I am just doing my job, enforcing the laws of the country and sometimes people don't like it." He told all who think they can get away with working illegally on the sabbath to think twice. The argument runs deep into the very foundations of the state, which agreed at its birth to enforce religious laws regarding marriages, divorces, kosher food, education and the sabbath.

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A threat to Britain's leading soap highlights miscalculations in the battle for Channel 3 licences, Peter Fiddick argues

Rivals need to get Street-wise

What will become of *Coronation Street*? Last week's frantic lobbying and jostling as the deadline for bids for the new Channel 3 franchises arrived was discussed solely in terms of commercial television as a profit-centred industry and Treasury milch-cow. It would be sensible to start looking at it once more from the viewpoint of its audiences and their future.

At the moment the audience has no idea what service it will get. The aspirants now pledging their unearned millions for a slice of the action must be far from certain how many people will want to watch their programmes.

David Plowright, Granada's chairman, has threatened that if he does not win his broadcasting contract, he intends to do something far worse than stop making *Coronation Street*: he will carry on making it, but sell it to someone else. This would not only deprive the channel of three peak-time mass audiences each week, it would also deliver them *en bloc* to a rival channel.

The calculation is chillingly simple. The latest viewing figures show that *Coronation Street* supplies ITV with 23 million viewing hours a week, about 4.8 per cent of its total. Remove that viewing to some other channel (BBC? Channel 4? BSkyB?), and there is a 9.6 per cent narrowing of ITV's lead. Even allowing for average popular replacement programmes, the result could be about 3 per cent, with an additional knock-on effect on succeeding programmes of the absence of the super-soap three nights a week.

In advertising revenue, this alone could be enough to flip the fortunes



Champion viewers would switch channels for Bet Lynch (Julie Goodyear), now 21 years in *Coronation Street*

of the new companies, so finely calculated on a ten-year view, from black to red. The prospect of such a shift, 52 weeks a year, puts into perspective ITV's clobbering of BBC1 with *The Darling Buds of May* — a mere 17 million viewing hours, Sunday-night only, for just six weeks.

Of course, it will not happen — at least, not quite like that. No television network, commercial or otherwise, could allow a keystone in its scheduling architecture simply to

be removed. We might speculate, nevertheless, about the price that Mr Plowright, as chairman of a big independent programme producer, would be able to exact from Channel 3 for continuing to supply *Coronation Street*. He, however, would no longer be at the table where decisions are made about such matters as giving a soap opera a third, fourth or fifth weekly episode.

Such a gap between broadcasters and programme producers is a

deliberate feature of the new Channel 3 system. Many of last week's new entrants to the race are taking advantage of the chance to set up as publisher-contractors, minimising their own in-house costs and production by hiring the talents of itinerant independent producers.

For the viewer, this might achieve the desired effect of a liberalised market, creating a network which does not allow tired shows to stagger along for years, but briskly clears them out to make way for

new ideas. But the bidders know that in the wake of every past franchise round, even while some critics were complaining that the old order had not changed enough, the audience sensed disorder and voted with its switches for at least a year, until the restored flow of investment in programmes showed on the screen. ITV's current strong performance is not just timely window-dressing, but the outcome of efforts by its youngish programme controllers.

There is plenty of competition. The BBC, with its continuity and central decision-making, has an unparalleled opportunity to lay out its stall, if only it can produce some more high-quality goods in time. Channel 4, selling its own advertising for the first time, has a new independence.

And then there is the "satellite revolution". About 1.7 million homes, 7.6 per cent of the total, now receive direct-to-home channels by satellite. In them, more television is watched but all conventional channels lose viewers. Recent figures show the time spent watching ITV down 25 per cent from its performance in the homes without satellite TV. By the end of next year, the Astra satellite's users hope to have twice as many dishes in place. By simple extension, with 15 per cent of homes on satellite, the new Channel 3 players would be inheriting ratings nearly 4 per cent down nationally on what the same schedules might have attracted in the pre-satellite era — assuming that Mr Plowright has not yet sold *Coronation Street* to BSkyB or that *The Bill*, *Minder*, *Benny Hill* are not leading the new Thames-by-Dish channel.

not become current problems. "In our experience, speculation about what might happen in the future is cheaper than finding out what is happening in the present," Ms Leighton says. "The current affairs programmes we make are what they ought to be: investigative, enquiring, revealing and responsible."

To Mr Redmond, Granada's reaction is wholly predictable. But asked if his regional programme proposals might be considered too radical for the ten-member Independent Television Commission, Mr Redmond says: "If you take on the high church you need a new religion to put in its place."

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Television power to the people

Phil Redmond has promised anarchy, 'free form', DIY and demystification

If North West Television (NWT) should oust Granada, television viewers from Bolton to Blackpool and Morecambe to Macclesfield could become television producers in 1993. NWT plans to use local public access programming to "demystify television" and "weave broadcasting into the community".

Phil Redmond, the creator of Channel 4's *Brookside* and now chief executive of the Yorkshire-backed NWT, has promised to open the airwaves to amateur productions by students and community action groups throughout the region, should it win the Channel 3 licence. Equipment and training would be made available to would-be dramatists, comedians and current

affairs investigators, whose half-hour programmes would be broadcast regionally at 1pm each weekday.

What Mr Redmond calls "anarchic research and development" would also be broadcast through the night. A regional all-night programme modelled on "free-form radio" and featuring the works of newcomers is being promised, instead of the "dustbin of acquired material" most other Channel 3 bidders plan to offer. Mr Redmond says. Night owls could ring up the host, or appear in the studio for a chat. "Like listening to con-

versation in a restaurant, it will be addictive," Mr Redmond says. NWT's research shows there are a million night owls in the region.

The all-night programme, part of NWT's promise to quadruple to 50 hours a week regional output, will also be cheap — one studio, one presenter, and programmes made for nothing by newcomers who want experience more than payment.

Granada, fearful that NWT's lower cost-base has enabled it to put in a higher cash bid, seems determined to discredit its rival's application on quality grounds.

"He's talking about local television, not Channel 3 television," says Jane Leighton, Granada's head of publicity. "We're offering nine hours of quality regional output a week. He's offering 50 hours of parochial community tele-

vision, and that is incompatible with a Channel 3 licence." "That's nonsense," says Mr Redmond, who also makes *Waterfront Beat* and *Grange Hill* for BBC1. "We're offering the region what it wants. The incumbents just hate giving the public any access because it erodes their power."

Granada also attacked Mr Redmond's plans to offer viewers "future affairs", rather than current affairs. Future affairs units were dispatched to "dig up new and unexplored issues", drawing the public's attention to future problems so that they do

MEDIA WATCH

Two-horse race

TODAY'S 5pm deadline for the new "non-pop" independent national radio (INR) licence is likely to be quieter than last week's Channel 3 auction. The licence is likely to be contested by only two bidders: Lord Hanson's Melody Radio and Scotland's largest commercial station, Radio Clyde. Both bidders are to offer a pre-Sixties "easy-listening" format, much to the chagrin of Lord Thomson of Monifieth, the former IBA chairman, who will tomorrow in the Lords criticise the Radio Authority for limiting rather than expanding listener choice. Those who planned to offer classical music have been driven away, saying the station is a "licence to lose money", while others have been thwarted by rules defining as "pop" anything with electronic amplification or that has appeared in a singles chart since 1960. The licence will be awarded in July to the highest cash bidder.

Conflict claim

TELEVISION South West, which faces two challenges in the Channel 3 licence auction, has criticised the involvement of John Banham, the Confederation of British Industry's director-general, in the rival Westcountry Television bid. TSW, a CBI member, said it was unfair that a senior officer of an organisation meant to represent its commercial interests should apparently be involved in a bid to take away its business. Mr Banham, who is to be chairman of Westcountry should it win the licence, denied there was a conflict of interest. "I would only take on the chairman's duties when my duties at the CBI come to an end in autumn 1992," he said. He had taken no part in preparing Westcountry's bid.

Changing the notes

THE music industry has set new rates for playing records on BBC radio and television, enabling the corporation to broadcast 27 per cent more recordings a year without increasing its costs. Under the two-year deal between the BBC and Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL), the hourly rates will be £465 on network radio, £1,184 on network television, £21.50 on local radio, earning PPL £9 million this year. Commercial radio stations have challenged their new PPL rates at the Copyright Tribunal. Commercial stations are to pay the PPL a percentage of their total advertising revenue, ranging from 5.5 per cent to 20 per cent. Capital Radio, the London station, will be £2 million worse off under the new charges announced last month.

MPs' debate

THAMES Television, which caught the *glasnost* spirit back in 1986 when it became the first British broadcaster to link British and Soviet studio audiences via satellite, is now to bring MPs from the House of Commons and the Kremlin together in a live discussion programme on June 5, broadcast at 11.45pm. MPs such as Peter Bottomley, Clare Short and Charles Kennedy will question, and be questioned by, their Soviet counterparts on issues ranging from democracy, to economic relations and the upheaval in the Soviet Union.



Clare Short

No smoking zone

THE Periodical Publishers Association (PPA) has criticised as "illogical and unnecessary" the European Commission's tobacco advertising ban, which will prevent even tobacco trade magazines from advertising tobacco products. Ian Lock, the PPA chief executive, says the ban will drive all titles such as *Tobacco*, an essential means of communication within the manufacture, distribution, wholesale and retailing of tobacco, out of business.

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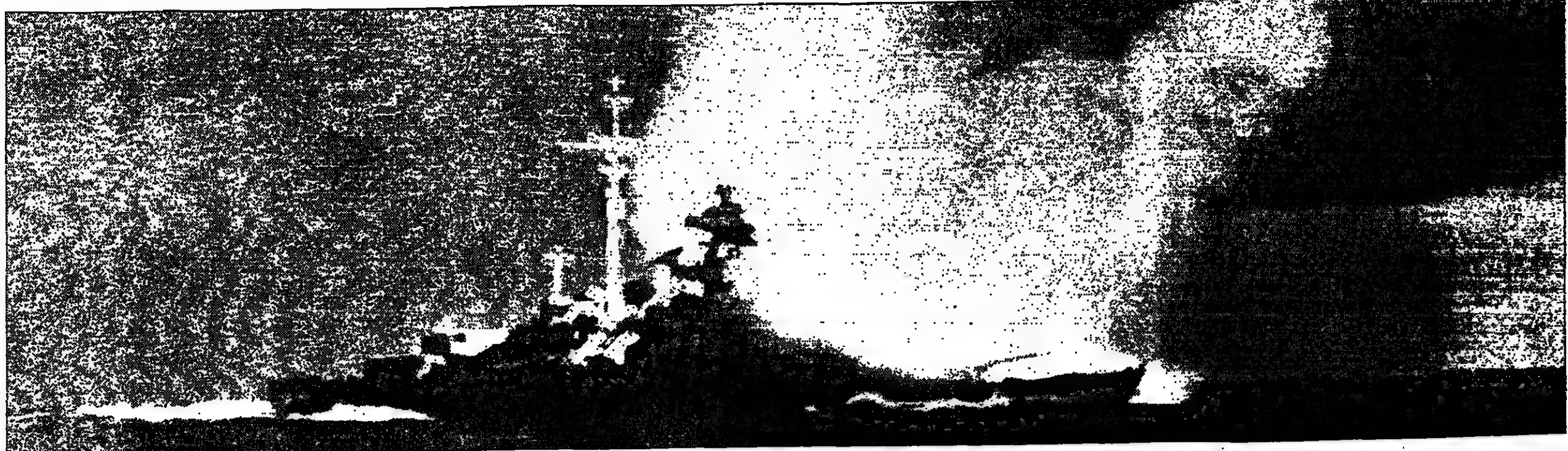
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The lucky miss that sank the Bismarck



May 26, 1941 was a day on which Great Britain could not win the war but could easily have lost it. It was a day of mistakes and miracles.

The German pocket battleship Bismarck and cruiser Prinz Eugen had sunk the Hood and beaten off the Prince of Wales in the north Atlantic on May 24, and had disappeared during the night of May 24-25.

By midday on May 25 the Admiralty was convinced that the Bismarck was heading for a French port, probably Brest. She was being pursued, about 100 miles astern, by the battleships King George V and Rodney. They steamed on together at the Rodney's maximum speed, which was three knots slower than the Bismarck's. Bismarck was clearly winning the boat race, and she would be protected by the Luftwaffe by noon on May 27 unless she could be slowed down. British hopes were perforce shifted to the ability of the ships of Force H, heading northwest from Gibraltar, to hold up the Germans.

The German battle cruisers Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were already in Brest, and if the Bismarck succeeded in joining them, their squadron would present a formidable challenge to British supremacy in the north Atlantic. Except for the two light battle cruisers Renown and Repulse, all our battleships were slower than the Germans' and, by and large, it would need at least four British battleships to be sure of defeating the Bismarck and her two smaller companions. We simply had not enough battleships to maintain surface supremacy in the north Atlantic; if we lost this supremacy, the end of the war would be close.

Force H was based on Gibraltar, commanded by Vice-Admiral (Retired) Sir James Somerville. It was composed basically of three ships: Admiral Somerville flew his flag in the Renown, a battle cruiser designed and laid down before the first world war, which had been forbidden by the Admiralty to attempt to engage the Bismarck without support. The Sheffield was a modern, six-gun cruiser, she was one of the few ships then fitted with radar and asdic (anti-submarine detection equipment).

The third ship was the aircraft carrier Ark Royal. She carried 24 fighter aircraft, which could not carry torpedoes and took no part in this operation, and had a nominal complement of 33 Swordfish. The Swordfish was a canvas-covered, open-cockpit, three-seater biplane. Its maximum speed when loaded was about 88 knots, and its endurance about four and a half hours. Its principal anti-ship weapon was a small 18in torpedo. The advantage of the Swordfish was its sturdy construction. Its main disadvantage was the very bad intercommunication provided. Between the observer and the pilot there was about 6ft of

half-inch rubber tubing which was supposed to act as a voice pipe. No wireless communication was provided between aircraft in the same squadron and all messages between aircraft had to be passed either by naval semaphore or by the flag-waving system of Morse code as used by the army in the Boer war.

The Ark Royal never got near the full complement of Swordfish: the priority afforded to the construction of biplanes which would not have been out of place at the battle of the Somme was not high. During this operation, when the demand for reconnaissance, shadowing and anti-submarine patrols was met, we never had more than 15 Swordfish available for torpedo attacks.

Two-thirds of the aircrew on the Ark Royal — pilots, observers and telegraphist-airgunners — were Air Branch officers who had just come from training and had very little experience of the uncertain sea. All had been following the pursuit of the Bismarck with keen interest. By the time we sat down to dinner on May 25 it was apparent that the Bismarck could only be stopped from reaching safety by a very few men, and these men could be seen by their messmates seated around the table.

On May 26 the Ark Royal flew off a dawn reconnaissance and we sat back and waited for developments, which were not long in coming. The first news was a signal from an RAF flying boat operating from Northern Ireland, which reported an enemy vessel steaming east about 100 miles southwest of the Ark Royal.

After about 20 minutes one of the Swordfish on reconnaissance reported an enemy battleship steering east, but its position was at least 60 miles away from the ship reported by the flying boat. Was there one enemy ship or two, and if two, which was the Bismarck?

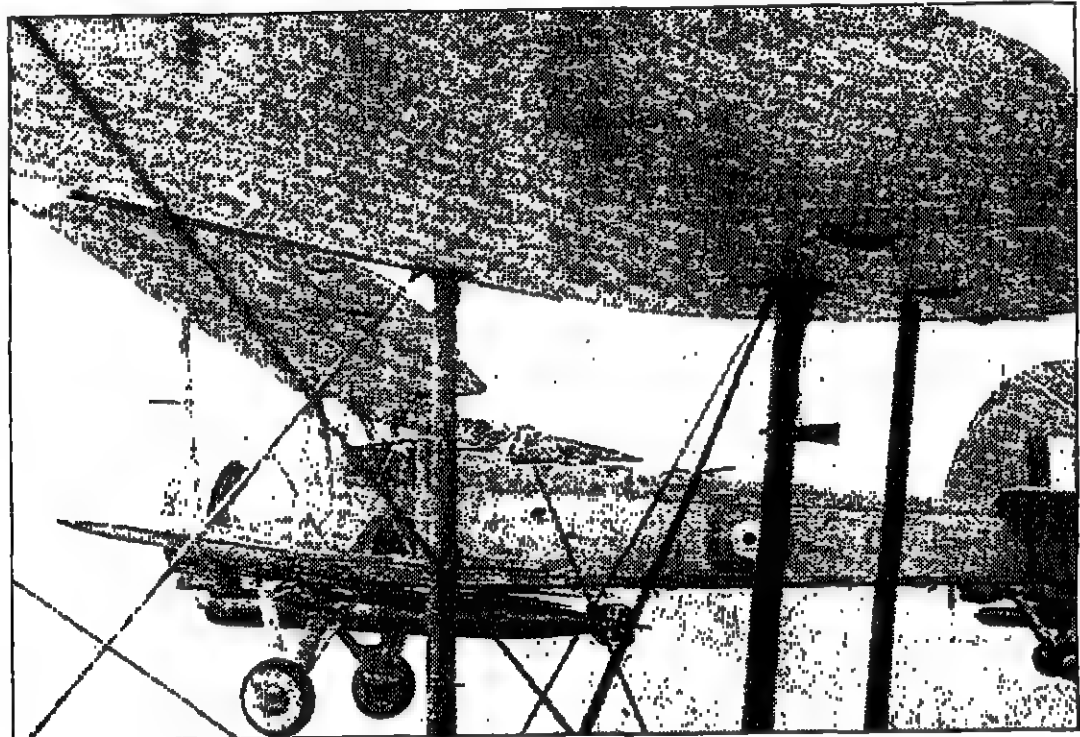
The weather was not helpful. There was a Force 8 gale blowing from the west and the Ark Royal's stern was rising and falling 50ft or more as the rode over the waves. This made landing and taking off particularly with torpedoes, quite hazardous. It also made handling the aircraft on deck heavy and slow work: 20 men pushing a Swordfish laboriously uphill might suddenly find themselves breaking into a canter as the ship topped a swell and the aircraft rolled happily forward.

The next step had to be flying off enough relief Swordfish to keep the enemy ships under observation. Then the aircraft of the dawn search had to be recovered and stowed below. Only then could the striking force be ranged on deck and prepared for action. So it was not until about midday that I took off with 14 Swordfish and plenty of hope.

We had been assured during the briefing that there were no British ships in the area. This was a great help, as it meant we did not have to identify the ships before we



Fifty years ago this weekend British battleships secured north Atlantic supremacy by sinking the German raider Bismarck (above) — but not before a near-disaster involving a Swordfish squadron from the carrier Ark Royal. That squadron's commander, James Stewart-Moore (left, in wartime), recalls what happened



Flying into trouble: the author's Swordfish photographed by Midshipman Cooper on the first torpedo run

started our attack. Further, in view of the uncertainties, I was told to attack whichever ship we found first, battleship or cruiser.

The aircraft next to mine in the leading sub-flight carried one of the first airborne radar sets — ASV — and it was manned by a young sub-lieutenant, Lithgow, and an even younger midshipman, Cooper. The latter's duties included navigation, radar operation, wireless operation and general lookout. After we had been going for a while, I saw Cooper waving to me. He then signalled to me that he had a radar contact about 20 miles away to starboard, so we turned the squadron to see what he had found. The position of the contact did not, of course, correspond to either of those already reported, but as there were said to be no British ships in the area it had to be German.

We recognised the ship as a cruiser, and decided to attack. We approached it above the clouds, getting an occasional glimpse as we ran in, and dived down through the clouds to drop our torpedoes. As we all disappeared through the clouds everything looked promising. As soon as we came out into the clear weather, my pilot, Hunter, called to me down the voice pipe: "It's the Sheffield." Hunter pulled out and waved his wings, and did everything possible to attract the attention of the other pilots, but only two got the idea that something was wrong. The rest continued their dive, flattened out for the run-in close above the surface, and dropped their torpedoes. They carried out the attack very well, while we watched from above, horrified, and praying for a miracle.

Unusually, the miracle department was paying attention to incoming prayers, and the miracle was provided at once. All the torpedoes except one or two blew up within half a minute of striking the water. The others missed. It was a surprising sight.

Hunter and I gathered up the aircraft, leaving the Sheffield none the worse, although I think everyone's nerves were a bit on edge. About ten minutes later, Cooper again came to life. He had got another contact about ten miles away. We were more cautious this time and found that we were approaching what seemed to be three large destroyers. They could have been Germans coming out from France to meet the Bismarck. The uncertainty was resolved by the leading ship making the British identification signal to us by light. We turned back again towards the Ark Royal. We had hardly got settled down on our

new course when my telegraphist (Perry Officer R.H. McColl) handed me a message. It was marked with the top priority "Operational — Most Immediate" and read: "Look out for Sheffield which is in your vicinity." I thought of plenty of replies but none seemed helpful, except perhaps a reference to 1 Kings 10:7: "Behold, the half was not told me." I did not send it.

When we reached the Ark Royal we were told to drop the remaining torpedoes well away from ships; this we did, dropping them carefully to give them every chance of a successful run, but nevertheless they exploded as soon as they had run off their safety range.

When I reported for debriefing, I was met with profuse apologies: it seemed that the admiral had told the Sheffield to shadow the

We dived through clouds to drop our torpedoes. As we came out, my pilot called down the voice pipe: 'It's the Sheffield'

Bismarck but had not instructed the signalman to inform the Ark Royal. The Ark Royal was playing happily with her aircraft problems a few miles from the other ships, and did not notice the Sheffield's disappearance for some time. The signal sent to me should have had absolute priority, but it had been held up by other traffic for more than half-an-hour.

I told the debriefing officers about the peculiar behaviour of the torpedoes, but they seemed uninterested; they were concentrating on the possibility of getting another strike away before dark, so I went to look for Portlock, the torpedo officer. I told him about my misgivings, and we concluded that the fault must lie in the torpedoes' firing mechanism.

Put simply, there were two different sorts of firing pistols: the old-fashioned one relied on the torpedo colliding with its target and the force of the collision working a simple system of levers to set off the charge. The second, new sort, depended on a sudden change in the direction of the magnetic field surrounding the

would cause even more delay. Eventually we took off this time we were instructed to find the Sheffield first. She would tell us the bearing and distance of the Bismarck and we were to fly on from her.

All went well until we left the Sheffield, when we ran into a bank of heavy cloud. We flew blind in it for a while, a hair-raising business, and eventually all the aircraft became separated and the squadron completely lost its formation. I do not know what happened to the other 12 aircraft; we got clear of the cloud, accompanied as we had been all day by Lithgow and Cooper, and found ourselves about ten miles on the port bow of the Bismarck.

As we turned towards her an aircraft from another sub-flight appeared and joined us, and the three of us flew in to make a rather forlorn attack. Success in torpedo attacks depended on the aircraft being able to put down enough torpedoes in a short interval to make it impossible for the ship to avoid them all. With only three torpedoes in the race, evasion was much easier.

The run-in was alarming. We had the Bismarck's undivided attention for at least five minutes. The shells we could see seemed to fill the sky; those we could not see did not bother us so much, but there were many more of them. Half a league onwards? When you took account of the Bismarck's speed and the strong headwind against us, our flying machines were not covering the intervening distance much faster than Lord Cardigan's horses.

At last we dropped the torpedoes and turned away at maximum speed and raced for the horizon, dodging like snipe as we went. Eventually the pilot asked me if we could not ease down, and I agreed. We were only about 150ft above the sea, and fairly close together, when there was a terrific crash directly below us, as four or five heavy shells struck the water and exploded. I did not have to tell the pilot to open up again as we were already going like the proverbial bat. We were about ten miles from the Bismarck and the pilot of one aircraft (Swanton) was hit in his sit-upon by a jump of shell, which was fortunately slowed down by his spring-steel seat. He was the only casualty in a long day's flying; he landed on the Ark Royal safely and then retired to the sick bay to have the lump of steel removed.

Our attack was probably the first. It was followed during the next 20 minutes by four or five smaller attacks by one, two or three aircraft. When all the aircraft had attacked, the strike leader, Lt. Cdr. Ooode, signalled to the Ark Royal that the attack had been completed and that he thought there had been no hits. So we all landed on the Ark Royal and the aircrews gathered in the operations room for debriefing. It seemed to be a sorry tale of small, ineffectual attacks. However, one pilot who attacked alone believed he had scored a hit amidships on the starboard side, and right at the end, the leader of the two aircraft which were last to attack (Lt. Geoffrey Fawcett) thought he might have scored a hit right aft on the battleship.

The aircrews hung around in the operations room for a while, talking about the possibility of

carrying out a night attack, or hoping for better conditions in the dawn, when a signal from the Sheffield came up the pipe saying that the Bismarck was now steering northwest. This was unexpected; if it were true, the Bismarck was now steering back towards the pursuing British battleships.

After a few minutes a second signal was received, this time from a shadowing Swordfish, saying that the Bismarck was steering north at only six knots. It meant that she had suffered a serious injury which might only be temporary, but could be very difficult to repair. Further signals over the next half-hour indicated that the Bismarck was still compelled to steer away from France and that her speed was much reduced. Shortly Admiral Somerville signalled that we were to rely on a dawn attack.

The Ark Royal launched her last attack on the Bismarck at dawn on May 27. Fifteen Swordfish armed with contact torpedoes were flown off, but the commander-in-chief (home fleet) ordered them to jettison their torpedoes and return to the Ark Royal.

The King George V and the Rodney came into action early in the morning and by ten o'clock they, with the help of the German scuttling charges, succeeded in sinking this remarkable ship.

We learnt from survivors from the Bismarck that the last torpedo had indeed caused irreparable damage. It struck the Bismarck's rudder when the ship was turning under full helm. The explosion occurred under the ship's counter which prevented the force of the explosion from escaping upwards. The full force of the explosion was taken by the relatively weak rudder mounting and the floor of the steering compartment in the counter. The result was a firmly jammed rudder and great rents in the ship's plating, which let the sea in and out so freely that repairs were quite impossible. The only thing the Bismarck could do was to go round in circles of varying diameter. It was in this condition that she was found by our battleships at dawn next day.

When the Bismarck had sunk, Admiral Somerville was told to take his ships back to Gibraltar, where we arrived safely a couple of days later. We expected an ordinary homecoming, but found all the service personnel, army, navy and air force, and indeed most of the civilian population, led by the governor, Field-Marshal Lord Gort, had turned out to cheer us home. It was a fine experience for us, and possibly one that Gibraltar had not seen since 1805.

That evening Admiral Somerville gave a party for the aircrews of the Ark Royal, the governor, and other high-ranking officers. The admiral and the governor walked round and chatted to us all: when he came to me the admiral said in course of conversation: "Don't worry about the Sheffield. We all made some very lucky mistakes. If we had not found out about the torpedoes, it could have cost us the war."

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As diaries were forbidden in wartime, this account has been written entirely from memory.

A second signal said the Bismarck was steering north at only six knots. It meant that she had suffered a serious injury



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Gawain, a new Harrison Birtwistle opera, is coming to Covent Garden. Richard Morrison talks to the production team and Paul Griffiths considers the contemporary context of the work

Knight's errand: risking his neck to challenge death

To Elgar Howarth, who will conduct it, *Gawain* is simply "the most difficult score I've ever seen". Coming from the man who steered a heroic passage through Sir Harrison Birtwistle's last operatic epic, *The Mask of Orpheus*, these words carry some weight. To Di Trevis, the National Theatre director brought in by the Royal Opera to stage *Gawain*, it "reminds me of late Shakespeare plays, because fundamentally it's about a man facing death." For Jane Gibson, who has choreographed it, *Gawain* is "monumental; it will seal you, this wall of sound."

And what does Harry say? "I don't know how they're going to do it," maintains the 56-year-old composer, of his requirement that the Green Knight be decapitated in full view and then continue to sing. "But it's got to happen. I don't want any metaphors."

Coming off the Coliseum stage in 1986 after the premiere of *The Mask of Orpheus* - with his standing as Britain's most ferociously challenging composer confirmed - Birtwistle turned to Howarth and said "Covent Garden have asked me to write an opera." That casual remark began a four-year collaboration probably unique in the operatic world: unique because it bound up so many diverse talents for so long.

After Puccini and Verdi, Birtwistle had selected another mythic legend as his next operatic venture: the 14th-century poem *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, relating how the Green Knight allows himself to be decapitated by one of King Arthur's knights, if the same knight pledges his own neck a year later. Birtwistle asked David Harman to shape *Gawain* into a modern-language opera libretto, after reading a review of Harman's poetry in *The Times*. Harman agreed and wrote, and rewrote - but without success. "I suspect that we'd both been prepared to wage war if need be," he recalls in the preface to his libretto. "It was clear that it wasn't going to be necessary."

So far, so usual. But remarkably, Birtwistle had involved a whole production team in his creation almost from the outset: Trevis, Gibson, and the designer Alison Chitty. Birtwistle knew them all from the National Theatre, where he was once music director. Before he wrote a note, says Trevis, "we talked for days about the theatrical language one could use to tell the story - how you show a character travelling on stage, how you create a court, nobody knows anything about, how you show that certain characters can see but not be seen." A classic Birtwistle preoccupation - the tension between instinct, sexuality and violence on the one hand, and inexorable ritual on the other - was clearly regenerated in those formative days.

Then came another crucial stage: two workshops, which

Birtwistle had involved a whole team in his creation almost from the outset

Trevis ran, and Birtwistle attended. The aim? To show the composer the art of the possible. "We had 14 actors and a room for a fortnight," says Trevis. "We took certain aspects of *Gawain* and tried many staging ideas: beheading, heads that can speak, how to portray animals - all the things in this opera that are a director's nightmare."

Everything to be seen at Covent Garden next week grew from those workshops. The designer Alison Chitty, facing the task of depicting an epic journey, recalls that "the drawing I did after the first workshop was not so different from the finished design." All she regrets is that the Royal Opera stage is "nothing like big enough. I've devised this enormous image

of an endless landscape; I want it to go on and on."

But perhaps those preliminary sessions were of most use to Jane Gibson, tackling the choreography of a central masque which, at 26 minutes, is longer than many ballets. "The language I've used is not plucked out of the air. Since this is set in the Middle Ages, I started with two great historical dance-forms: the farandole and the branle. But then we began to play with the steps a bit, dislocated them. This is contemporary opera, not historical reconstruction."

Of Birtwistle's massive score, however, neither producer nor choreographer had more than an inkling. Only last week did the production team experience the full storm of the Birtwistle orchestra for the first time.

That has been the domain of Howarth. "I had the first act by the middle of last year," says the conductor. "Harry assured me *Gawain* would be two hours long and conventionally scored. In fact it's three hours, and has parts for a cimbalom, three tubas and a separate choir singing Latin motets. *Orpheus* was a piece which a young man knew he had to write. *Gawain* is the work of a mature master. All of Harry's theatrical virtuosity has gone into it."

Unlike the production team, Howarth did not have lengthy discussions with the composer. "He came over one afternoon, but I think we talked about football. He and I understand each other; we're both Lancastrians, we can be frank without tension."

What do Birtwistle's collaborators believe *Gawain* is about? "He's always been keen on ritual; this is as ritualistic as *Orpheus*, and also about how you tell a story," says Howarth. "Quite a few of the cast haven't been sleeping well; the opera's about death and how we come to terms with it," says Gibson. "It's about having a start, encounter with your own mortality," says Trevis. "And it's about a realisation that it's alright not to be perfect."

RICHARD MORRISON



Dealing with the difficulties: librettist David Harman (left), composer Harrison Birtwistle and designer Alison Chitty

Almost 40 years have passed since the premiere of the last opera to have gained a firm place in the international repertoire: Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. Of course people go on writing operas, perhaps now more than ever. The conjunction this month of first performances at both London opera houses is striking enough, but within the last year have also come new works from Glyndebourne, Welsh National Opera and Scottish Opera. The atmosphere is very different from that of the doldrums of the 1970s - yet a new opera has about as much chance of joining the classics as a new book has of being accepted into the Bible.

One can be cynical about this, and the new operas staged by all the major companies in the last decade or so have given reasons for cynicism. It is perhaps fruitless to rake over the dead leaves, but any list would have to begin with the Glass/Lessing *Making of the Representative for Planet Eight*. What also must be recognised is the expense of mounting works that require elaborate resources. But maybe even more fundamental is the resistance to post-tonal music, a resistance within the nature of the genre.

Opera was born, in the years around 1600, when the new tonal system of major and minor keys began to level itself up out of modality. That was no coincidence: the new harmony was implicitly dramatic, thrusting

Discords turn into discards



Conductor and director: Elgar Howarth (left) and Di Trevis

through time. But in atonal music, time has become disorderly. No rational character would want to live in such a world, and opera since Alban Berg has been the place outstandingly for irrational characters or else for beings who, like the masked creatures in *The Rake's Progress*, have little claim to be characters at all.

The distinction here is one that separates two streams of opera during the last half century and more, two streams that may be typified by this month's two new operas: Stephen Oliver's *Titan of Athens* and Birtwistle's *Gawain*. On the one hand there are pieces which go on working as operas have always worked, using music



to evoke emotion and atmosphere in realistic situations, and justifying atonality by the extremity of those situations. Meanwhile other composers have sought to find a new kind of drama to mesh with a new kind of music.

This is not, of course, a bleak either/or: there have been composers, like Britten or Judith Weir, who have taken both paths, even within the same piece. But it may suggest two possible responses to an operatic world which is plainly hungry for new works, but which equally plainly, has no long-term use for them. One is to accept the nature of opera as a given, and to write works which will fit neatly beside

Verdi and Strauss. The alternative is to re-make the genre nearer the heart's desire.

Most composers who have taken this course have chosen to make their revisions of operatic reality unmistakable by ironically evoking what they were challenging. Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress* is an example, with its mirror-play to Mozart, but one could cite, too, Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*, a coupling of operatic conventions in a wildly disrespectful dance of death, or the operas of Berio. *Le Grand Macabre*, which had half a dozen productions within a few years of its first performance, came closer than any other recent work to achieving repertory status, but it is difficult to imagine how the canon could have included such a disruptive newcomer. Indeed, the anti-operatic operas of Ligeti and Berio have an outsider status built into them.

So do the operas of Birtwistle and Stockhausen, our two great operatic mythmakers. These are pieces that use operatic resources, but do so as if those resources had no tradition, no history, or as if tradition and history had largely been lost. Disowning tradition means continuing on a journey that will have no end, and that will not come near the fenced-off territory of the standard repertory.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Gawain is staged at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden (071-340 1066) on May 30, June 4, 6, 8, 19, 22.

GALLERIES

Oxford's masters loaned for cash

DRAMATIC cuts in state subsidies have made life hard for many museums, but a novel way of easing the financial pain has been devised by the Ashmolean in Oxford, Britain's oldest museum open to the public. It has chosen to lend the cream of its 15th- to 18th-century Old Master drawings to an Italian foundation in Rome, and in exchange has received \$500,000 (£300,000) for its endowment fund. The money will help finance the maintenance and restoration of pieces in its Oxford collection.

The exhibition, called "Il Segno Del Genio" - "the mark of genius" - has been organised in Rome's Palazzo Ruspoli by the Memmo Foundation, and will run until July 13. It includes 100 drawings of the Italian, Spanish, Dutch, German, French and British schools, including five Raphaels, five Michelangelos, three drawings by Rubens and two each by

Leonardo da Vinci, Dürer, Rembrandt, Gainsborough and Watteau, as well as drawings by Titian, Grunewald and Holbein.

"It is the first time that we have lent in exchange for cash on this scale," said Dr Christopher White, the Ashmolean's keeper of Western art, who was in Rome for the opening last week.

The loan may seem brutally mercenary, but it has a perfectly respectable aim. "In spite of the subsidy cuts, the Visitors - or governing body of the Ashmolean - are determined to keep admission to the museum free, as it has always been," said White. The half a million dollars will provide a healthy injection of cash into a museum which, in recent years, has been forced to cut down on staff, while having custody of one of the world's greatest art collections. The museum is particularly renowned for its Old Master drawings, so it is perhaps fitting that they should help provide some hard currency.

REVIEWS, page 18
Theatre and Jazz

PAUL BOMPARD

GENNADY ROZHDESTVENSKY

Gennady Rozhdestvensky conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Elgar's *Enigma Variations* and Prokofiev's *Pushkiniana* with Prunella Scales and Daniel Massey

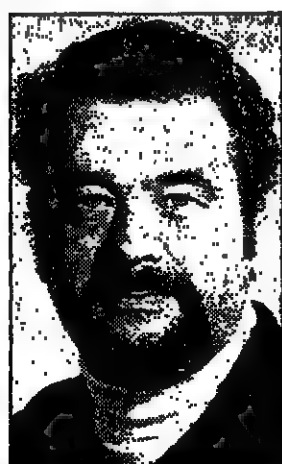
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Double debut

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of Tom Stoppard, David Hare and Stephen Poliakoff, two more playwrights have turned film director. Dennis Potter is to direct *Silent Friends* from his own script about the relationship between a man and the young woman he feels impelled to murder. The film will star Alan Bates and Gina Bellman, and is produced by Potter's own newly formed company, Whistling Gypsy Productions. Meanwhile, Anthony Minghella has just completed *Truly, Madly, Deeply* for the BBC and is due to start *Mr Wonderful* for the Samuel Goldwyn Company in September.



Walter Weller: doing the orchestral rounds

Walter Scot?

THAT much-travelled conductor Walter Weller returns officially to the British music scene next January. He has just been appointed music director of the Royal Scottish Orchestra, the still-unfamiliar title by which the Scottish National Orchestra is now known. Weller, once principal violinist of the Vienna Philharmonic, has certainly done the rounds of the British orchestras: he held the posts of principal conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and then of the Royal Philharmonic in rapid succession.

Rink out, wedding bells

DOUBLE toe loops at the Royal Court Theatre? Two British ice-dancing champions have been invited to perform there in Rose English's show, *The Double Wedding*, which is being presented as part of the Barclays New Stages Festival of Independent Theatre from July 3 to 10. Triple axels and double salchows may be slightly out of the question, though, for Sharon Jones and Paul Ashkam, four times British ice-dance champions and one-time world ice-skating champions: they will have to skate on a specially constructed ice rink the size of an average dining table. The rest of the cast in this eccentric concoction includes aerialists, dancers, actors and musicians.

Private view

ONE of the more bizarre summer offerings in the West End takes place at the Duke of York's for the four Sundays of June when Barry Fantoni transfers to the stage his jottings about the rats, pigs and goats of Chinese horoscopes. Starting on June 9, the stalwart of *Private Eye* and inventor of "Colemanballs" will explain the significance of the monkey in Elizabeth Taylor, and the fact that the Prince of Wales is a rat.

Last chance...

MARIA Ewing sings her last Covent Garden Carmen tonight. Then Nuria Espert's undervalued staging of Bizet's opera has its final Royal Opera performance on Saturday (071-240 1066/1911) and will not be revived until the 1993/4 season. The cast that evening will show quite a lot of changes from the one heard on the first night. Kathleen Kuhlmann sings the title role, with Sergei Larin as José and Gillian Webster as Micaëla. Barry Wordsworth replaces Zubin Mehta in the pit. Next stop for the Espert *Carmen* is the gypsy's home town of Seville in April 1992.

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END OF A DYNASTY

Rajiv Gandhi has paid the price of doing away with the security which he had surrounded himself since the murder of his mother Indira Gandhi seven years ago. Only last week in Uttar Pradesh, he protested that the masses were being kept away from him. "Let them come forward," he declared, driving in an open jeep. Now he too has fallen victim to political assassination. Will Indian democracy die with him?

It was already clear before yesterday's tragedy in Tamil Nadu that this election was marred by some of the worst violence, corruption and thuggery in modern Indian politics. The rise of Hindu extremism as a force has alarmed not only Indian Muslims but also the many friends of Indian democracy abroad. There is a long tradition of Indian secularism, which Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, sought to bind into the newly independent country's political institutions. That tradition has been under attack not only from the Hindu nationalists of the Bharatiya Janata Party but also from fanatics playing on caste hatreds. Their militancy has clearly blinded them to the overriding goal of maintaining the unity of the state and the democratic guarantees it offers — in theory at least — to all ethnic and religious minorities.

Rajiv Gandhi's critics would blame Mr Gandhi himself for much of the instability and political turmoil which followed his last administration. His defeat at that time was largely due to the perception that his government was corrupt and too weak to deal with the apparently intractable problems of caste, poverty, inequality and, most immediately threatening, factional Hindu-Muslim violence. Yet Mr Gandhi, for all his faults, remained a politician of greater stature than those who came after him — and

not just for the family tradition that he had come to represent. For the past 18 months India has been ruled by weak coalitions. Chandra Shekhar, the prime minister, uttered the ultimate cynicism of Indian politics, that his sole ambition was to hold his particular office.

Mr Gandhi was the product of a dynasty steeped in public service. The 1985 election which followed his mother's assassination gave him a landslide victory based on hopes that he would modernise the Indian economy, bring 20th-century technology to its industry and do away with the archaic ideological baggage that had become an encumbrance to the Congress (I) Party. He lost public confidence because he was aloof, because of the Bofors corruption scandal and because, in the end, the tasks he confronted simply overwhelmed him.

Yet he proved in opposition that he was capable of humility, coupled with an ability to listen to public discontent and learn from his own past mistakes. His loss is a grievous blow to his party as well as to his country. Congress (I) has proved in the past to be a clumsy and imperfect instrument of government. But at least it was a party of government, of strong centralised authority.

India needs a party opposed in principle to the extremes of religious fanaticism. It also seemed to yearn again for a family dynasty which, through its charisma and experience, could lead India's huge population through at least a semblance of democratic respectability. Three of that family's members have been killed. It will take a mighty effort of collective political will for India's leaders now to rise above the factional hatred which threatens the country with chaos and bloodshed, just when it faces its greatest trial.

BAD TO WORSE IN LONDON

Does London need a new Greater London Council? Both the government and the Labour party reply no. For the government the argument ends there; for Labour it does not. In a policy document published yesterday, Labour declares that, while it is not for recreating the GLC, it does need to create a Greater London Authority. One thing should be understood from the start: Labour's GLA is nothing but the GLC reincarnated.

The GLA would have "strategic" powers covering virtually every local government activity in the capital, including transport, health, police, housing and planning. Indeed it has a vastly more extensive remit than that originally proposed for the GLC by the Herbert Commission in 1960. That body was also meant to be "lean and hungry" and established on "modern managerial principles" with a small, highly professional staff, in the words (referring to the new body) of Labour's shadow environment secretary, Bryan Gould, yesterday.

The GLC had been specifically charged only to be strategic, with the new London boroughs delivering local services. Within a decade, it had become one of the most interventionist, extravagant, wasteful and boastful bureaucracies in a capital well-stocked with such beasts. But even so it did not run the hospitals and the police, as is now proposed for the GLA. The old GLC housing department, one of County Hall's worst scandals, is to be reborn with a complete "land-use planning framework" and "housing development powers". The London boroughs should shudder at the thought: even their new education functions are to be exposed to a six-month enquiry into how they might be "improved".

Not a word in Labour's document, rife with platitudes, suggests that the party has shed its old big-government-is-beautiful obsession — except its hope (unconstrained by any statutory limit) that it would never need more than a small staff. The hand of grasping local government unions is heavy on the document. Recreating not just a regional authority but a tier of government with the widest possible powers, and one that previously proved flawed, is no way to reform London government. Nor is it the

way to answer Michael Heseltine's failure to include London in his current review of local government.

So what should Labour, and Mr Heseltine, have proposed? The answer is what Labour claims to want but is too in love with the old GLC model to propose — a truly "lean" body to stand at the apex of the capital's government. Londoners have shown time and again in polls that they do want some symbolic focus for city-wide identity. Reformers should be able to evolve a body that can answer this need. There are some functions appropriate to an elected authority for the capital, some consultative, a few regulatory, and many ceremonial. Mr Heseltine should not leave Labour to make the running.

He should respond to Labour's challenge by proposing a minimalist version of a London authority. It should be based on a single elected mayor, plus a senate composed of borough representatives. The mayor's office would be less potent than any of its County Hall predecessors. Its functions would be consultative and exhortatory, liaising between the boroughs, central government and the London quangos, notably in matters of transport and development planning.

As with the London mayor's New York equivalent, elected status would give the office considerable public clout. It might also enjoy some of the regulatory functions proposed by Labour, for instance in environmental, conservation and arts matters. While the mayor would deliver no services, the office would have a small budget, fixed as a percentage of the London-wide council tax, to give exhortation some weight. There is a world of difference between these modest, mostly symbolic aims, and the hands-on management of major services that Labour is proposing for its new GLA.

Should Labour return to power, London will clearly have to experience another round of costly empire-building by a union-dominated County Hall. The Tories could best avert this monster by stealing, not Labour's entire suit of clothes, but a few modest undergarments, restyled.

GLORIES OF THE GARDEN

The sun, stubbornly absent for most of the spring, is shining this week to welcome nearly 200,000 people to the Chelsea Flower Show. The numbers have been limited to avoid a crush, and the show is likely to sell out. An Englishman's home these days is his garden — or somebody else's. The National Trust has declared 1991 the Year of the Garden, and expects visitors to its gardens to exceed last year's 7.6 million.

Gardening is one of the few pursuits at which Britons excel. Blessed with a climate that generally furnishes enough rain to keep plantlife lush, the British cultivate gardens that are the envy of the world. Unlike continental Europeans, who are happy to live in flats, and Americans, who dismiss their garden as a "yard", the British think no house is complete without a real garden. One of the pleasures of the British countryside is not just the architecture of its villages, but the flowers and lawns that enliven them.

The best British gardens eschew the geometry and formality of the Italians and the French, in favour of a studied asymmetry. Just as Capability Brown designed landscapes to look as perfect as they might in nature, the British herbeaceous border, though tended, has to have a hint of wildness and overabundance in its arrangement.

Gardening has become a boom industry in this country. About 85 per cent of British adults have a garden and last year they spent around £2 billion on horticultural products, more than twice as much in real terms as in 1980. Plants are now easier to buy in the

past, keen gardeners used to have to write off to nurseries in the autumn to buy seeds or plants for the following year by mail order. Now, with the proliferation of garden centres and do-it-yourself megastores, people can buy ready-grown plants and flowers whenever they like, even on a Sunday in most areas. Nearly half of all garden-related shopping is done in these shops.

But most important is the rise in home ownership. Garden centres report a big increase over the past decade in the number of young couples coming in for plants to prettify and thereby increase the value of their new houses. Hanging baskets are taking off in every sense. Meanwhile the pattern of gardening has changed away from vegetable-growing and towards the more aesthetic cultivation of flowers. With the constant availability of fresh vegetables in supermarkets, there are now half as many allotment-holders as there were in 1950. Many now have their own garden in which they can plant lobelia instead of lettuce.

Gardening is not quite immune to the recession; this year the Horticultural Trades Association is expecting no real growth in the market. But those who forgo the holiday in Spain for financial reasons will no doubt potter round their gardens instead in true British style. Why did it have to be a Frenchman, Voltaire, who concluded that, in order to lead a better life, *il faut cultiver notre jardin*?

Widening scope of HIV tests

From Dr Robin Russell Jones

Sir, The realisation that HIV affects one in 500 women of child-bearing age in inner London, and in some areas one in 200 (report, May 18) is a cause of considerable concern, and should lead to a reappraisal of present medical practice.

Current policy is for epidemiologists to establish incidence figures rather than identifying infected individuals, which casts them in the role of passive observers rather than active participants. The medical profession would like to test patients but cannot do so without informed consent. Counselling of patients at risk consumes considerable time and money, and resources which are unlikely to become more available in the new-style NHS.

It would, for example, make sense to test all women attending antenatal clinics. Even the most ardent right-to-life campaigner cannot be so heartless as to wish for HIV-infected children to be brought into the world when the means to avoid such a calamity are readily available. Patients admitted to hospital for major surgery should also be tested, not only to protect medical staff, but because certain elective procedures such as tonsillectomy might be contra-indicated if a patient is found to be immuno-suppressed.

As a society, we surely have a responsibility to identify HIV-infected individuals, if only so that they and their partners can be made aware of the appalling risks associated with unprotected sexual intercourse, and so limit the spread of the virus. At the present time both the government and medical representatives such as the BMA seem intent on burying their heads in the sand, rather than risk criticism from those well-motivated but vociferous interest groups that have made Aids their special preserve.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RUSSELL JONES,
Cromwell Hospital,
Cromwell Road, SW5.

Gazza and the law

From Mr John King

Sir, The "Gazza" case (reports, May 20, 21) raises an interesting point in the context of sport and the law. In certain contact sports such as rugby the referee has a duty to protect players from both others and themselves; a concussed player can be "sent off" by the referee and substituted.

In the play on Saturday it is arguably clear that Mr Gascoigne was in a hyper-excited state as evidenced by his first tackle. Had the referee shown the yellow card it is most likely that the player would have modified his mood, especially given his world cup experience.

This is not to say that the Hoptons board should now sue the referee for their lost millions, but it is time to remind all arbitrators that they have a duty to protect players from damaging others and themselves.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. KING (Director),
The Academic Department of
Sports Medicine,
The London Hospital
Medical College,
Turner Street, E1.
May 21.

Soul contribution

From the Reverend Canon A. C. Roberts

Sir, The report by Kerry Gill (May 15) concerning the request of the crofters on the island of Foula for the reappointment of a missionary by the Church of Scotland refers to the church seating "about 50 souls".

In view of the stated fact that sometimes there were only two islanders at Sunday worship it must be a comfort to the pastor to know that 50 souls were also present. Or did the two bodies leave room only for an assembly of 48 souls?

Yours sincerely,
A. C. ROBERTS,
Shotton Vicarage,
Deeside, Clwyd.

From Mrs Valery Rees

Sir, I had always thought it was bodies that required the seats, not souls. Perhaps the islanders should be sending missionaries to the church?

Yours faithfully,
VALERY REES,
Conifers,
12 Sandy Lodge Way,
Northwood, Middlesex.

NHS reforms

From Mr David L. Crosby

Sir, It was interesting to read of the success of private medical practice in the UK (Mr John Hughes's letter, May 20). It succeeds because it provides a good service. For a moderate fee it allows patients to see a doctor of their choice at a mutually convenient time and usually as urgently as the patient believes to be necessary.

For £28 billion a year, why does the NHS fail to do the same? Is it because £28 billion is insufficient, and if so, how much more is needed? It is of course also possible that better organisation could provide stiffer competition for those who now feel it necessary to resort to private medicine.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROSBY
(Consultant surgeon),
University Hospital
of Wales,
Heath Park, Cardiff,
South Glamorgan.
May 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

A drain on the wells of our charity

From Mr Frank Kennedy

Sir, One of the most treasured and truthful posters in this office, frequently requested by visitors, is that of Dom Hecker Camara, former archbishop of Olanda and Recife, remarking: "When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist".

It is clear that there will be no end to the colossal and unnecessary wastage of human life in so much of the world until that fundamental question has been addressed. Oxfam, Cafod (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development), Christian Aid and several other agencies have increasingly been attempting to do that. The recent report of the Charity Commissioners on Oxfam (details and leading article, May 10) appears to threaten this vital aspect of the work of these organisations, the ultimate aim of which should, after all, be to render most of their work unnecessary.

While it is gallingly apparent that today, more than ever, dire emergencies must be met with the "Band Aid" response of huge relief packages, the recipients' long-term future depends on the achievement of "sustainable development". This means enabling poor people of Third World countries to work for, and win, the basic human rights and social conditions most of us here take for granted.

Any consequences of the Charity Commissioners' report which inhibit the independent aid agencies from being instrumental in this must be challenged in forthright debate. The Christian churches, with their close formal or informal links with the agencies, and their traditional emphasis on works of charity, have a clear role to play.

Yours faithfully,
F. KENNEDY (Fieldworker),
Archdiocese of Liverpool,
Justice & Peace Commission,
152 Brownlow Hill,
Liverpool 3.
May 14.

Aid for Bangladesh

From Captain D. J. Elliot, RN (ret)

Sir, Because Bangladesh possesses 40 per cent of the world's rice, it is a country which should be a focus of attention for the United Nations. The values and fears of the Third World are not always the same as those of the West. Recently achieved sovereignty is very precious. Military power is universally regarded as its best defence and its very yardstick. The crushing superiority of Western arms and technology in the Gulf crisis have probably reinforced these views.

If viewed by Western standards, Bangladesh and the other least developed countries lack the economic viability to be independent sovereign states. Nevertheless, born in the spirit and by the will of the

From Mr Clive Hollands

Sir, So-called "compassion fatigue" (letter, May 6) may have other causes than the "expensively-produced" appeals sent out by charities. From my own experience of charities over more than 25 years, although I still find the unflinching generosity of the British public almost beyond belief, I cannot imagine that there is a response anywhere in the world that can match the enormous sums raised by media-backed appeals such as Comic Relief, Children in Need and the Telethon.

However, I would suggest these appeals are perhaps one of the main causes of a drop in income among some charities. The more the public respond to their emotional impact and excitement, the less there must be available for weekly, monthly or annual contributions.

Charities more and more have to rely upon legacies from the dead rather than gifts from the living.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE HOLLANDS (Secretary),
St Andrew Animal Fund,
Queensferry Chambers,
10 Queensferry Street,
Edinburgh 2.
May 10.

From Mrs Margaret Turnbull

Sir, So the Badminton cabinet seems likely to leave England (report, May 18) because only £2.6 million has been pledged to keep it there.

Would it not be appropriate if those who contributed to such appeals were asked to name in advance a charitable purpose to which their donations could be applied if the original appeal failed?

Mind you, there are those who might feel that this money could have been better spent in the first place.

Yours faithfully,
MARGOT TURNBULL,
8 Bever Court,
Bever,
Worcestershire.
May 18.

bulk of the United Nations in the era of decolonisation, that is what they are. As such they have the responsibility and right to ensure the security of their territories and people.

Dr Le Vay considers that "there is no conceivable use" for the F6a. It is doubtful if anyone in authority in Bangladesh would agree. Throughout its history the country has had to contend with armed insurrection in its hill tracts. The fear, distrust and hatred between Hindu and Muslim in the sub-continent may seem undesirable and irrational to outsiders but they certainly exist.

Although relations between Bangladesh and India are currently quite good, a number of important mutual problems are still unresolved and many Bangladeshis fear that India has expansionist aims or that their country's freedom of action may be proscribed by

Call to rescue Uruguay Round

From the Chief Executive of RTZ and others

Sir, The serious threats over-hanging international trade should be of great concern to all nations, companies and individuals who are committed to the continuing growth of world prosperity.

The Uruguay Round of talks dragged on for four years before failure to agree in Brussels last year. Each of the major trading blocs has been prepared to protect narrow sectional interests for domestic political reasons, and to blame others for their failure to agree.

An irrevocable collapse of the Uruguay Round would be in no-one's interest. A disintegration of the world's carefully built trading systems into protectionist blocs would severely harm the economic well-being of the world community. In particular, the consequences would fall most heavily on those in the developing world who are least able to withstand such pressures.

Whilst recognising that there are complex difficulties to be surmounted, we call on all governments to do their utmost to restore impetus to the dialogue. Given good will, and a clear understanding of the main objectives, we believe that a satisfactory outcome is still possible. Any remaining differences could be eliminated over time by full commitment to progressive adjustments. A further liberalisation of world trade leading to continuing economic growth would thus be assured.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK BIRKIN (RTZ),
MICHAEL ANGUS (Unilever),
DENYS HENDERSON (ICI),
PETER HOLMES (Shell),
ROBERT HORTON (BP),
DAVID LEES (GKN),
PATRICK SHEEHY (BAT Industries),
The RTZ Corporation plc,
6 St James's Square, SW1.
May 21.

India's extensive military power and ambitions as the regional power. The possession of some armed forces as a deterrent against such contingencies is believed to be essential.

The whole question of how impoverished countries can exist economically as independent states is one for which the world has yet to find an answer. The creation of a new world economic order has long been a foremost Third World aspiration but nothing approaching a practical suggestion as to what that order should be has yet come forth. In its absence the need for economic aid from the affluent nations will persist.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN ELLIN,
Baind House,
Kirkcubright, Perthshire.
May 16.

Service in Punjab . . .

From Sir John Lawrence

Sir, I write to correct an error in your interesting obituary (May 10) of Brigadier Jimmy Green. That very distinguished corps, the Piffers, were not the "Punjab Infantry Frontier Force Rifles" but the "Punjab Irregular Frontier Force Rifles". I am an honorary Piffers, as the great grandson of Henry Lawrence of Lucknow — as he is known to history, although his life was much more bound up with the Punjab.

In what sense were they "irregular"? Only in the sense that they were not bound by the too-stiff rules which applied to the rest of the Indian Army. In particular, this made it possible for Indians to be given real responsibility as officers, instead of becoming NCOs as the height of their ambitions, and to serve with great distinction.

The Piffers are now a *corps d'élite* of the army of Pakistan. They have preserved the traditions which they inherited from the British and have improved them.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN LAWRENCE,
24 St Leonard's Terrace, SW3.

. . . and on the veldt

From Mr Brinley Morgan

Sir, On reading the "On This Day" (May 11) report of the Boer ambush of Colonel Broadwood's transport column at Koorra Spruit in 1900, I was reminded that the battery disgraced by the loss of its guns was U Battery, Royal Horse Artillery. In artillery regiments the guns are the Colours.

I spent most of my National Service in U Light Battery, from 1954-6. It was then a field battery, equipped with carriers and 4.2in mortars which had a maximum range of 4,200 yards, considerably less than those in 1900.

Battery folklore maintained that it was not losing its guns in the Boer War which finally meant its transfer from the Royal Horse Artillery to the Royal Field Artillery, but its dropping of Queen Victoria's coffin, probably not true, but a good story.

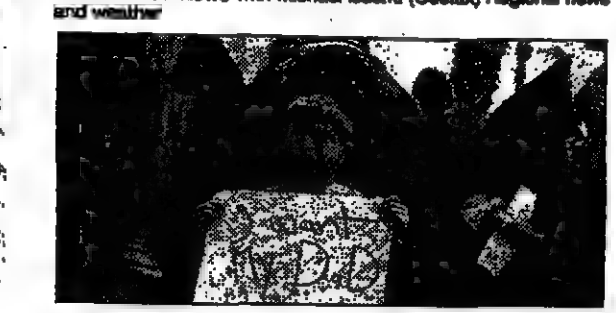
U Light Battery was disbanded in June 1956. I still possess a battery regimental tie with its red "U" on a blue background.

Yours etc,
BRINLEY MORGAN (Headmaster),
Walworth School,
Shorncliffe Road, SE1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

BBC 1

6.00 Ceefax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.05 Gloria Liza. Gloria Hunniford with guests, topical studio discussion and music 9.45 Dish of the Day. Recipes 9.55 It's Easy. Dressmaking hints
10.00 News, regional news and weather 10.05 Playdays (r) 10.25 Stoppit and Tidup (r) 10.35 The Hogan Family (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather 11.05 People Today. Adrian Mills and David Jones meet unusual people around Britain
12.00 News, regional news and weather 12.05 Scene Today with Judi Spiers and Alan Titchmarsh. Among the guests for this last in the current series is Robbie Coltrane 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Who's Bluffing? Ulfia Jonsson and Richard Carbridge host the game show in which contestants investigate Barnuda (r)
2.25 Racing from Goodwood. Live coverage of the 2.40, 3.10 and 3.40 races. The 4.10 race is covered on BBC2
3.50 Henry's Cat (r) 3.55 WildBunch. Nature series. Mark Evans and Violet Berlin are joined by a wolf, a tree python, a jungle cat and a beaver 4.10 Little Bites. Animated adventures 4.35 The Movie Game. Film and video quiz show for young movie enthusiasts
5.00 News and weather 5.10 Country Boy. Episode 2 of the six-part drama series about a Kent sheep-farming family who are directly affected when a local chemical company dumps pesticide into a river (r). (Ceefax)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) Northern Ireland: Sportswide. 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Hawley. Weather 6.30 Regional news magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Women. The guests are Tony Walker and Sue Sullivan, two of the people featured in the ITV series 35 Up. There's a hint, and two cakemakers, Greg Robinson and Max Schofield. Music is provided by Amy Grant
7.35 Duggie Howser MD. Medical comedy drama starring Neil Patrick Harris as the teenage doctor. (Ceefax)
8.00 Police Rescue. Australian action-drama series starring Gary Sweet as Sgt Mickey McIntosh of Sydney's Police Rescue Squad. McIntosh takes on a giant chemical company when two children are badly burnt by toxic waste pouring into a suburban creek. He takes a jar of the toxic water to the head of the corporation but finds himself accused of stealing and in hot water back at the station. (Ceefax)
8.50 Points of View with Anne Robinson
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather

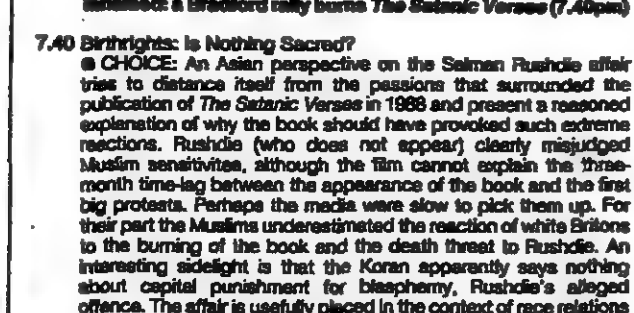


Protesting to the crown prince: a barefoot Kuwaiti child (8.30pm)

9.30 Inside Story: The Missing.
CHOICE: Among the victims of Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait were thousands, if not tens of thousands, of Kuwaitis taken to Iraq as prisoners. Some have come home. Many are still missing. As distraught relatives wait for news, the Kuwaiti regime is being accused of dragging its feet and a petition has gone to the crown prince demanding action. Also missing are several thousand people in Kuwait itself, most of them Palestinians suspected of having collaborated with the Iraqi. Human rights bodies say that more than 5,000 are still being held in Kuwait's military prisons. There is evidence that, like the Kuwaitis held in Iraq, they have been brutally tortured. Stephen Lambert's film graphically illustrates the two stories with first-hand accounts from released prisoners and the families of those whose husbands, fathers and sons are still missing. It does not make comfortable viewing. (Ceefax)
3.20 Film 91 with Barry Norman. Barry meets the movie glitterati gathered at the Cannes film festival
1.00 Film: Malone (1987). Escapist thriller based on William Wingate's novel. Starring Burt Reynolds as a burnt-out CIA hit man. Ironically his retirement in Oregon brings him into conflict with millionaire Charles Delaney (Cliff Robertson) who is intent on buying up land for the headquarters of his extensive right-wing paramilitary organisation, incognito spreading across the country. With Kenneth McMillan, Cynthia Gibb and Lauren Hutton. Directed by Harley Corliss 12.30am Weather

BBC 2

6.45 Open University. Society and Social Science Foundation Course
8.00 News
8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on Two
9.00 News and weather followed by You and Me (r)
2.15 The Good Old Way. Featuring some of the pioneers of the folk song revival. Filmed at the London Singer's Club, the programme takes a critical look at the way traditional music is presented, focusing on the work of Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger (r)
2.35 Country File. John Craven reports on rural issues (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live 3.50 News, regional news and weather
4.00 Racing from Goodwood continued from BBC1. Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the 4.10 Kincross Stakes
4.25 The Zoo in Winter. Jonathan Miller reflects on a visit to Regent's Park (r)
5.10 Horizon: Camelford - A Bitter Afterlife. Three years ago 20,000 people drank water infected with toxic aluminium waste, unwittingly dumped into Camelford's water supply. Horizon looks at how research examining the long term effects on the brain and the human nervous system has been carried out. (Ceefax)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Rick's (Jonathan Frakes) integrity is put to the test when he volunteers to serve on a Klingon ship. Klingon defector Lt Wolf (Michael Dom) seems that brute strength remains the Klingon philosophy, putting Rick in an awkward position when his authority and loyalty are challenged. Back on the Enterprise a virulent strain of bacteria is eating away at the hull
6.50 DEF II: Rough Guide to the World - Update. Travelling hipsters Magenta de Vine and Sarika Guba discover what's hot in Buenos Aires (r)



Infused: a Bradford rally burns The Islamic Verses (7.40pm)

7.40 Birthrights: Is Nothing Sacred?
CHOICE: An Asian perspective on the Salman Rushdie affair tries to distance itself from the passions that surrounded the publication of The Satanic Verses in 1988 and present a reasoned explanation of why the book should be banned. It also examines reactions. Rushdie (who does not appear) clearly misjudged Muslim sensitivities, although the film cannot explain the three-month time-lag between the appearance of the book and the first big protests. Perhaps the media were slow to pick them up. For their part the Muslims underestimated the reaction of white Britons to the burning of the book and the desire to react to Rushdie. An interesting insight is that the Koran apparently says nothing about capital punishment for blasphemy, Rushdie's alleged offence. The affair is usefully placed in the context of race relations in Bradford, where the protests against the book were at their most vocal
8.10 Chelsea Flower Show 1991. Alan Titchmarsh, Anna Gregg and Dr Stefan Buczczak present the programme from the prestigious gardening event of the year - the Royal Horticultural Society's Great Spring Show. This year the show is attended by prisoners under guard from Leyhill Open Prison menning their edible garden display, a sample of the Leyhill garden that feeds 10,000 prisoners across the country. Plus students of the Penrhos College of Agriculture in Worcestershire demonstrate their hanging garden
9.00 M*A*S*H: Giving Thanks. A Christmas special. The M*A*S*H Mobile Army Surgical Hospital based in Korea. Surrounded by the wounded and suffering, Hawkeye (Alan Alda) writes to President Harry S. Truman to plead for an end to the war so the squadron can return home (r)
9.25 The Paper Man: Looking at the Stars. Episode three of the six-part Australian drama starring John Wood as a mogul Philip Cromwell, continuing his ruthless rise to the top. Despite commanding power and wealth, Cromwell still lacks respectability and launches a quality Sunday newspaper to this end. When a major political scandal blows, however, he unwittingly falls into the role of interfering proprietor when his imported British editor has rather different views from his own. With Oliver Tobias, Rebecca Gilling and Peter Tappin. (Ceefax)
10.20 Film: The Great Escape. A comedy comment on a current issue
10.30 Newsnight with Jeremy Pearson
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine
11.55 Weather

ITV

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Cross Wit. Tom O'Connor hosts the word game 9.55 Thames News and weather
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion series
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine series
12.10 Abscort. Children's entertainment (r)
12.30 News with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 Thames News and weather
1.20 Home and Away. Australian soap 1.50 A Country Practice
2.20 Take the High Road. Scottish soap set in the Highlands 2.50 Win, Lose or Draw. Pan and paper charades game
3.15 ITN News headlines 3.20 Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian medical drama
3.55 The Raggy Dicks (r) 4.05 Bangers and Mash (r) 4.15 But Can You Do It On TV? Michaela Strachan hosts the manic children's talent contest 4.40 Palace Hill. Offbeat school comedy
5.10 Blockbusters with Bob Holness
5.40 News with Carol Barnes. (Ceefax) Weather
5.55 Thames Help Jackie Sprockley with details of the new Nature Study Centre which has been established to provide easy access for those with disabilities
6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News
7.00 Cluedo. Chris Tarrant returns with more murder and mystery at Arlington Grange
7.30 Coronation Street. (Ceefax)
8.00 35 Up.
CHOICE: Granada's real-life soap opera returns after a gap of seven years to catch up on the lives of a cross-section of Britons first filmed as children in the Sixties. The last programme, 28 Up, drew an audience of ten million, remarkable for a documentary screened late in the evening. It was also a huge success with the critics. Michael Apted was a researcher on the first in the series, made the next three and is back in charge of this one. In the meantime he has made his mark as a film director. The original 20 subjects have been whittled down to 11. Some found the media exposure too much. The survivors include two of the original school classmates, Jackie, Sue and Lynn. There is Neil, filmed seven years ago as a university drop-out living on social security. And there is Tony, who wanted to be a jockey, but actually became a taxi driver and is now thinking of giving up his cab to buy a pub. (Ceefax)
10.15 ITN News with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald. (Ceefax)
10.55 Midweek Sport Special. Nick Owen presents a double-bill featuring championship boxing and a major European football final. The boxing is from the London Arena and features the British featherweight title fight between the holder Gary De Ruix (Peterborough) and Colin McMillan (Barking). With commentary by Ray Gattenberg and Jim West. Plus football, with highlights of tonight's second division play-offs, and a preview of this year's rugby union world cup
12.15am News. News and current affairs from a religious perspective with Nick Stuart (r)
12.45 Film: The Family Rice (1972). Made-for-television thriller notable only as Rebel Without a Cause actor Sal Mineo's last screen appearance before his murder in 1975. Ben Gazzara stars as mobster Eddie Rice who falls for a beautiful young woman who is his younger brother's wife on the mob. Directed by Paul Wendkos
2.15 Videofashion. Featuring designer Karl Lagerfeld in Paris, newcomer Pascal Rabreau and Britain's Designer of the Year 2.40 America's Top Ten presented by Tony Pountney and Casey Kasem
3.10 Quiz Night. The pub and quiz club show, hosted by Martin Roberts
3.40 Stephen King's This is Horror. Interviews with the makers of The Thing, Christine, Maximum Overdrive, and a look at the horror movie
4.10 Soccer in the 70s. Gary Lineker takes a look back to the memorable season of 1976-77 with scores from the Seventies Ray Clemence, Jimmy Case and Mark Lawrenson
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). A look back to the events of May 1941 as depicted by newspaper editors of the day
5.00 Grand Ole Opry. Country music from Nashville, Tennessee
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

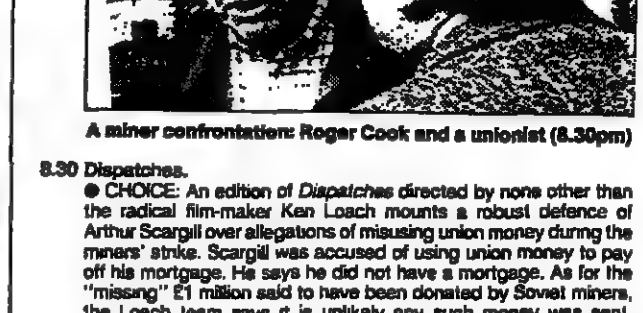


Seven years on: Michael Apted, Jackie, Lynn and Sue (8.00pm)

10.15 ITN News with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald. (Ceefax)
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CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme
12.30 Business Daily presented by Susannah Simons
1.00 Sesame Street. Educational entertainment for pre-school children. With guest star Susan Sarandon (r)
2.00 Gallery. George Melly hosts the quiz for celebrity art buffs. The regular team captains are Maggie Hambling and Frank Whifford
2.30 Film: They Shall Have Music (1939, b/w). An enterprising youngster and his chums, all students at a music school for the underprivileged, enlist the aid of world famous violinist Jascha Heifetz (making a guest appearance as himself) to help prevent the school from closing. Sentimental but chirpy drama with Gene Reynolds as the young would-be impresario (who later went on to direct M*A*S*H for television) and Joel McCrea. Directed by Archie Mayo
4.20 Cautour. Canadian animation
4.30 Fifteen-to-One. Fifteen contestants with three lives apiece are rapidly reduced to a single winner. Hosted by William G. Stewart
5.00 Famous for Four Minutes. What's the self-spun anecdote about the commoner eventually attaining 15 minutes of fame did not take Nineteen million dollars to buy a brief snatch of fame by Soviet miners. Ordinary Britons have a brief snatch of fame by Soviet miners
6.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Latest US Singing Stars. Oprah gets the lowdown on the hottest new chart-toppers in the US, interviewing rising stars Johnny Gill, Oleta Adams, En Vogue and British singer Cathy Dennis
6.00 A Different World: Time Keeps On Slippin'. American campus comedy
8.30 Tonight With Jonathan Ross
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zainab Badawi. (Teletext)
7.50 Party Political Comment from a Conservative party politician
8.00 Brookside. More adventures with the occupants of the Liverpoolian cul-de-sac (Teletext)



A miner confrontation: Roger Cook and a unionist (8.30pm)

8.30 Dispatches.
CHOICE: An edition of Dispatches directed by none other than the radical film-maker Ken Loach mounts a robust defence of Arthur Scargill over allegations of misleading union members during the miners' strike. Scargill was accused of using union money to pay off his mortgage. He says he did not have a mortgage. As for the "misleading" £1 million said to have been donated by Soviet miners the Loach team says it is unlikely any such money was sent. According to the film the finger should be pointed not at Scargill but at his accusers: Roger Cook, the door-slipping television reporter, the Daily Mirror and the former NUI official Roger Windsor. So Dispatches does a bit of door-slipping of its own. In a reversal of roles Cook finds himself ambushed by the brave Dispatches reporter, Lorraine Hegley, and asked to explain. At least he doesn't try to thump her
9.15 Re-Play: Blood for Supper. Another short play by a new writer. Tonight Jonathan Davis whips up a New Age dilemma for Saskia Reeves and Adam Gillet as they are forced to ponder the moral rot of vegetarianism over foetus
9.30 The Bear Hunter. Michael Jackson visits California in his search for the last bear liquid (r). (Teletext)
10.00 The Golden Girls: The Custody Battle. American comedy about the lives of four boisterous women for whom life begins at well over 50 (r). (Teletext)
10.30 Josie. One-woman comedy series starring Joanne Lawrence
11.00 Manhattan Cable. Crazy collection of excerpts from programmes on New York's aces cable television network, includes the story of the priest's mother who prayed for new teeth and woke up with a mouth full of platinum; and a new way of preserving a dead pet for posterity
11.45 Film: The Middleman (1975, b/w). Originally titled Jena-Anny or Human Jungle, this further Satyajit Ray offering in an already impressive showing of his work is both sensitive and cutting in its portrayal of the life of a young Calcutta graduate who must learn to face the often ugly realities of life. Starring Prem Kumar and Smita Banerjee. Ends at 12.15am

ITV VARIATIONS

NGLIA
London except 6.30pm-7.00pm Angle
11.15am Quiz Night 12.45 America's Top Ten
1.15 Saturday Night Takeaway
1.15am Power 4.15 Five Years On 4.35
active Video (Oak Ridge Boys) 8.05-8.30
midnight
ORDER
London except 8.30pm-8.50pm
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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 21-27
● FOCUS: BEN 28,29
● LAW 36
● SPORT 36-40

TSB calls in police over fraud

TSB Bank Channel Islands, the quoted offshoot of the TSB Group, has suffered a multi-million pound foreign exchange fraud that threatens to push it into losses. The bank has called the police into its offices in St Helier in Jersey to investigate the fraud, which it is still trying to quantify.

A statement to the Stock Exchange gave warning that provisions for the loss could push the bank into losses for the six months to end April and would substantially reduce its profits for the year.

TSB Channel Islands was one of the few British banks to increase profits last year. They rose 34 per cent to £9.19 million in the 12 months to end-October. This suggests the loss on the fraud could be as high as £5 million.

The bank is 51 per cent owned by the TSB Group with the rest quoted on the Stock Exchange.

George Thain, the chief executive, said it would take time to quantify the loss.

Detective Inspector John Riseborough of the Jersey police said: "The investigation will be protracted." He said charges were not imminent.

Yorkshire TV profits slump

Yorkshire Television, the independent television franchise-holder that has just scored a runaway success with *The Darling Buds of May* saw pre-tax profits drop from £11.1 million to £6 million in the half year to end March but is holding its interim dividend at 3.3p.

Tempest, page 23

Compass warns

Compass Group has given warning that the recession is beginning to affect business. Taxable profits rose 13.1 per cent to £15.5 million and earnings per share 14.9 per cent to 15.4p in the six months to the end of March. The interim dividend rises from 3.45p to 3.85p.

Tempest, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7385 (+0.0150)
German mark 2.9738 (-0.0001)
Exchange index 92.0 (+0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 19425 (+15.2)
FT-SE 100 2482.7 (+16.1)
New York Dow Jones 2914.80 (+22.58)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 25481.21 (-41.82)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
W Sncalr 281p (+21p)
Inchcape 339p (+10p)
RHM 310p (+8p)
Dagely 381p (+9p)
BOC 542p (+8p)
Seaboard 583p (+10p)
GKN 341p (+7p)
BP 329p (+7p)
Burnham Control 347p (+7p)
Kingsfisher 481p (+10p)
Lough 330p (+8p)
Admiral 315p (+24p)
Logica 212p (+8p)
Seaboard 212p (+10p)
Manweb 280p (+10p)
Cadbury-Schwepp 365p (+8p)
McCarthy 169p (+8p)
FALLS:
News Corp 368p (-20p)
Unigate 268p (-5p)
P Herts 120p (-11p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 12%
3-month interbank 11 1/2-11 3/4%
3-month eligible bills 11 1/2-11 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5 4/8-5 4/8%
30-year bonds 9 3/4-9 7/8%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7385
DM: £2.9738
Sfr: £2.5171
FF: £1.9834
Yen: £25.60
Ecu: £16.20
ECU 144288 SDR 1275354
£: SDR 1275354

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$356.75 pm \$356.30
close \$356.70-357.20 (\$205.00-205.50)
New York:
Comex \$357.15-357.65

NORTH SEA

Brent (Jun) \$19.30 bid (\$19.10)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 138.1 April (1987=100)

French show interest in ICI pigment subsidiary

From ROSS TIEMAN
IN PHILADELPHIA

RHÔNE-POULENC, the French chemicals group, would be a prime contender to buy a titanium dioxide business from Lord Hanson if he were to bid for ICI.

François Guinot, managing director of Rhône-Poulenc chemical intermediate division, yesterday confirmed that he was seeking a partner to provide access to chlorine production technology to make the paint whitening pigment.

ICI's Titanium subsidiary is the world's second-largest producer of titanium dioxide, while Hanson's SCM business also produces the pigment, the only area of overlap between the chemical group and the industrial conglomerate. Should

Hanson mount a £10 billion-plus assault on ICI, competition regulators would almost certainly expect him to dispose of titanium dioxide capacity.

M Guinot deflected questions on his desire to acquire the capacity and technology from Hanson, saying: "I don't believe Titanium will be for sale." However, discussions have been held with SCM, although "not for some time".

Rhône-Poulenc's two plants in France have a relatively small capacity of 140,000 tonnes. But it has already signalled its commitment to a larger role with a promise to spend up to £90 million to reduce discharges from its plants. Rhône-Poulenc's philosophy is to be in the top five worldwide in each of its

chosen markets. To achieve that goal in titanium dioxide it must expand capacity despite the present worldwide over-supply and expectations of a further slowdown in annual market growth - from about 8 per cent a year during the Eighties to 3 per cent each year in the Nineties.

Rhône-Poulenc believes there will be a global restructuring in the business. Apart from Du Pont, the world leader, ICI and SCM, only two companies, Kemira and Kerr McGee, have sophisticated chlorine technology.

British ministers, meanwhile, were pressed to block any bid by Lord Hanson for ICI as a trade union campaign against takeover got underway. At House of Lords

question time, Lord Williams of Elvel, for the Opposition, urged action to protect ICI from a bid, "particularly by a company with the cavalier attitude of a takeover conglomerate". Viscount Astor, for the government, said: "There is no takeover proposal. If there were, it is likely to be considered by the EC."

ICI's 62 per cent-owned Australian associate yesterday also reported depressed results. The company gave warning of intense import competition, including alleged dumping, which has exacerbated already-poor trading conditions since the start of the year.

Trading profit in the half year to March 31 was hit by lower sales in almost all divisions and the outlook for the rest of this year was for

continuing difficult conditions, the Australian associate added.

Net profits rose by 68 per cent to Aus\$73.20 million (£33.4 million) after an Aus\$40.17 million exceptional gain, but trading profits fell 51 per cent to Aus\$38.12 million. The exceptionals included Aus\$74 million from the sale of the company's interest in Catoleum, the specialty chemical manufacturer, in December, offset by a Aus\$25 million provision for restructuring costs.

Dr Michael Deeley, the managing director, said ICI would emerge from the recession smaller but well placed to return to "good profits".

Parliament, page 7
Europe the catalyst, page 23
Comment, page 23

High rate likely to persist

Long-term unemployed rise sharply

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LONG-TERM unemployment jumped sharply in the three months to April, according to new government figures that underline the likely persistence of high unemployment even if the economy begins to improve in the second half.

The figures, published yesterday, suggest almost half the unemployed have now been out of work for more than six months. The doubling of the increase in the number out of work for more than a year follows the rise in overall unemployment announced last week. This showed that the number of people out of work has risen by more than

half a million since unemployment started to rise again last year. Ministers tried to play down the impact of the rise in long-term unemployment, but Opposition leaders used the figures to attack again the government's employment, training and economic policies.

Employment department figures showed that the number of people out of work for more than a year rose to 553,100. The increase in the quarter to January was the first rise for almost five years.

The latest increase is a rise of 5.8 per cent in three months, and marks a considerable acceleration of the trend. Over the year to Janu-

ary, long-term unemployment fell by 9.1 per cent, while over the year to April it rose by 2.8 per cent. The number increased in all regions except the Northwest, the North, Scotland and Northern Ireland compared with a year ago.

Long-term unemployment inevitably rises when overall unemployment is going up, but the increase in those out of work for lengthy periods suggests that high unemployment is likely to persist for a considerable time even if, as Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said again this week, the economy begins to improve in the second part of this year.

The number out of work for more than six months showed an even sharper increase. The figure of 967,000 is 143,500, or 17.4 per cent, up on a year ago, and comprises 44.5 per cent of total unemployment.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said that despite the increase the number of people out of work for more than a year was about half the level of three years ago. He said that the number of people in long-term unemployment had fallen by a quarter in the past two years.

The number unemployed for more than five years was the lowest since January 1985.

But Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, said the figures were "devastating proof of the depth of the recession, and make a compelling case against the indifference and complacency of government ministers."

He urged the government to introduce a range of work experience and training options.

Narrow money stays within growth range

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE narrowest measure of Britain's money supply grew slightly faster than markets had expected, but remained well within the Treasury's annual growth target of 0 to 4 per cent.

Bank lending to the private sector also rose slightly more strongly than expected and analysts were divided on whether the figures improved or diminished the chances of a cut in interest rates this week.

The M0 measure of money supply increased by a seasonally adjusted 0.5 per cent in April, to stand 1.6 per cent above its level a year ago. The annual increase was the smallest since August 1982, and

compared with a year-on-year increase of 2.7 per cent in March.

The monthly increase in March was only 0.1 per cent and analysts had predicted an equally weak April figure.

The M4 measure of broad money supply increased 1.3 per cent last month and 10 per cent in the year to April. This marked a sharp acceleration from last month's zero monthly increase and the year-on-year rise of 9.9 per cent.

M4 lending by banks and building societies also rebounded strongly to £3.4 billion from £0.7 billion in March.

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Pru shuns trade insurer issue

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PRUDENTIAL has refused to take part in a £40 million rights issue by Trade Indemnity, Britain's largest credit insurance house. This is the first time a major investment institution has openly rebelled against the recent run of share issues.

Trade Indemnity is raising the money to cover heavy underwriting provisions. The company crashed to a £28.8

million loss last year, after claims surged because of the high rate of company failures. Trade Indemnity says it now needs to make further provisions because the recession has deepened, and these would slash its reserves to an unacceptable level.

The rights issue has been taken up by nine of the group's largest investors, who own a total of 68 per cent of the

shares. But Prudential, which owns 8.1 per cent of the company, told Trade Indemnity it had sufficient investment opportunities elsewhere.

Charles McCarty, an associate director at Trade Indemnity, said he was not disheartened by Prudential's refusal. He said: "It is excellent that we have this support from our other major shareholders in this climate."

Second investigation in four years

Bryant & May faces MMC enquiry

By COLIN CAMPBELL

DAVID Wheeler, managing director of Bryant & May, will today light 47 candles on his birthday cake - and pointedly use a match.

But his birthday happiness has already been snuffed out. His match making group was yesterday referred by Sir Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, for a monopoly enquiry - making it the second time in four years that Mr Wheeler will have been up before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Sir Gordon wants the £100 million-a-year British match for matches and disposable lighters examined because, he says, "I am concerned that price competition in the market... in this country is not as effective as it might be".

Mr Wheeler says he is surprised that the director has felt it necessary to make an MMC reference, especially as the

merger of Swedish Match and Bryant & May was investigated - and cleared - by the commission in 1987.

Bryant & May produces Swan Vests and Ship matches at the only British wooden match factory, in Liverpool, and employs 418 people.

The group was founded in 1834, and turns out 30 billion matches a year.

It claims a 77 per cent share of the total British match market, and says the average price of a box of matches has only risen from 5p in 1981 to the current 8p - well below the rate of inflation, and similar to the change in price of a Mars bar, which over the same period has advanced from 14p to 22p.

Before the 1987 merger, Bryant & May accounted for 80 per cent of the match market and the company says imports have made some headway into the British market.

Bryant & May is also the largest

distributor of imported disposable and semi-disposable lighters, such as Cricket and Chukka.

It will be for the monopolies commission to decide whether any aspect of Bryant & May's activities operates against the public interest.

Sir Gordon said that since the 1987 merger, Bryant & May's profits have increased greatly, but this has failed to attract competitive imports.

"I believe that a monopoly investigation by the MMC is needed to ensure that consumers' interests are not at risk from the dominant position which Bryant & May holds in the market," he said.

The monopolies commission now has eight months in which to complete its investigation and make its report to the trade secretary.

In the meantime, Happy Birthday Mr Wheeler.



Gloom at BA: Lord King, who says the airline would make a loss in the first quarter

BA says bad times continue

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways, which has been losing more than £2 million a day for the last three months, is relying on a rapid end to the recession to prevent it from slipping into the red this financial year.

Although costs in every department of the airline's worldwide operations are being subjected to intense scrutiny, neither Lord King, the chairman, nor Sir Colin Marshall, the chief executive, would give details of the proposed restructuring, which could lead to the loss of a further 2,000 jobs.

Instead, they concentrated on the results for the year to end March, which revealed a loss of £210 million in the final quarter and profits for the year down to £130 million, little more than the cost of one new Boeing 747 jumbo jet.

Lord King said: "I wish I could say that all the bad times are now behind us, but I cannot", adding that "it will be many months before the market returns to positive growth". He predicted that BA would make a loss in the first quarter of this financial year, followed by a return to profitability in the second, traditionally the busiest part of the year. He would not predict whether that progress would remain throughout the rest of the year.

BA managers are involved in one of the most drastic and fundamental reviews of the airline. Lord King refused yesterday to talk about the proposals in detail. He said: "I hope there may be no future job losses, although there may be some depending on how things go. The bulk of it has been tackled."

Paying redundancy to the

Comment, page 23

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Mountleigh falls in spite of Getty stake

CONFIRMATION of Gordon Getty's indirect 11 per cent stake in Mountleigh, the property and Spanish retail group, failed to lift the shares, which fell 4p to 79p.

The Gordon Getty family trust has bought half the stake controlled by Nelson Peltz and Peter May, the American businessmen who run Mountleigh. The Getty trust is paying 100p for each of the 23.7 million ordinary shares it is acquiring and 68p for 2.3 million convertible preference shares.

Mr Peltz and Mr May are deemed still to have an interest in the shares, as the Getty trust is in the shares still owned by the Americans.

Fiat profits fall to £970m

Net profits at Fiat, the Italian car and engineering company, fell from £3,660 million to £2,140 million (£970 million) in 1990, mainly as a result of a disappointing performance of Fiat Auto, the car division.

Contrary to fears expressed throughout the day at the Milan bourse, Fiat did not cut its dividend, which was held at £3.70 for ordinary shares.

Petrochem ahead

Petrochem Group, the surveying and engineering group, made £1.6 million (£1.3 million) pre-tax profit in the year to December, on turnover of £13.8 million (£9.08 million). Earnings per share were 4.12p (4.58p adjusted for bonus element of 1990 rights) and the final dividend is 0.625p, making 1.25p (1.21p).

Profits leap

Pre-tax profits at Minstergate, the property group, leapt from £543,000 to £1.32 million in the six months to February. Interest received rose from £927,000 to £1.42 million. Earnings per share were 36.43p (8.86p) and a maintained preference dividend of 5p per share.

Enquirer shares

American supermarket shoppers are to be offered the chance to buy stakes in the *National Enquirer*, a tabloid sold mainly at supermarket checkouts.

ICL holds £1.6bn turnover as European rivals suffer

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

ICL, the British computer company, was able to maintain turnover of £1.6 billion last year, with only a small decline in profits, at a time when the rest of Europe's computer industry suffered its worst year in history.

The company, in which Fujitsu, the world's second-largest information technology supplier, took an 80 per cent stake last year, managed to increase spending on research and development by 8 per cent to £215 million, although this led to a small fall in operating profits from £139 million to £112 million.

However, the recession in America and Britain had a strong effect on operating cashflow, which fell from £97 million to £34 million. The company said 1991 will be another tough year, with results no better than last year's.

Since the acquisition by Fujitsu, ICL, formerly a subsidiary of STC, the telecommunications group, has been fighting a battle to retain its "European" credentials.

Peter Bonfield, the chairman and chief executive, said yesterday that in continental Europe, which accounts for just under 20 per cent of sales, ICL had a "little local difficulty", referring to a recent



A 'little local difficulty in Europe': Peter Bonfield, the ICL chairman, yesterday

decision to exclude ICL from three out of five projects under the Joint European Submission Silicon Initiative (JESSI). He added that while the decision mattered little to ICL, which does not make semiconductors, it might have the effect of sending a wrong

signal for other European projects.

ICL has also been excluded from the European Round Table, an influential group representing European information technology firms. Mr Bonfield said this caused concern "because it was becoming

increasingly difficult to reconcile our open market views with the protectionist stance of the majority of the participants." He added increasing demands on research and development will result in a greater trend towards co-operation, mergers and acquisitions.

News International to close Bemrose

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

NEWS International, which last year invested £500 million in new run-of-paper colour printing presses, is to close Eric Bemrose, its Liverpool colour printing subsidiary.

The printer, which specialises in pre-print gravure colour for newspapers, will close at the end of August, with up to 181 job losses. News International said yesterday that it was considering redeploying a small number of Eric Bemrose staff at its other printing plants; the majority, however, would be given "generous

redundancy terms" in excess of the statutory minimum.

News International, which publishes *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *Today*, *The Sun* and *News of the World*, said Eric Bemrose's business had been adversely affected by the industry's move to on-the-run colour printing.

Colour printing of *Sunday*, the *News of the World's* colour supplement, was moved last year from Bemrose to a German print plant jointly owned by News International and Borda of Germany.

Lilley urges cultural industrial revolution

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government has called for a "cultural revolution" in industrial innovation, but gave a warning that further public funding would not solve shortcomings in British research and development.

In a keynote speech at Warwick University, Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, accepted the recession was putting pressure on company budgets, but argued that priority should be given to investment in new processes and products so that companies could grow as they came out of

the recession. He said innovation was competition driven, while accepting that the private sector in Britain invested less on research and development than its main rivals.

Vested interests, business, educational and social culture could all be antipathetic to innovation, he added.

He said: "What is needed is a revolution in attitudes towards... change. A sort of cultural revolution, which will transform the educational and social bias against business and against practical skills."

UK return sought for Expo pavilion

From COLIN NARBROUGH
IN SEVILLE

A GROUP of leading figures from the arts world, including Sir Terence Conran, want the British pavilion at next year's Expo 92 in Seville to be returned to London afterwards and reassembled by the Thames.

This emerged at the topping-out ceremony for the high-tech steel and glass construction at the Expo '92 site where Sir Robin Fearn, Britain's ambassador to Spain, operated a crane to hoist the first solar panels to the roof.

The pavilion, for which the government has provided £25 million of public funds, was given powerful backing by Margaret Thatcher, who as prime minister in 1988 called for the British building to be "quite the best" of the 110 participating nations.

Sir Nigel Brookes, whose Trafalgar House group is managing the construction for the government, yesterday stressed the pavilion was on budget and on schedule.

Spain is investing about £7 billion in the Expo site and on road, railway and airport improvements. Sir Terence, whose RSCG Conran Design is consultant to the government on the pavilion, said talks had been going on since Christmas about its future after the six-month Expo closes in October 1992.

He favours dismantling the mecano-like steel frame for re-assembly at a vacant site near Tower Bridge between Butler's Wharf, his former development, now in the hands of receivers, and the Design Museum.

The building, whose internal space is greater than Westminster Abbey, fits the riverside site almost exactly and would provide London with an ideal home for a British contemporary arts centre, he said.

Sir Nigel commented that returning the used pavilion to the banks of the Thames was a "lovely idea" but the cost meant it would probably make as much sense to build a clone and leave the existing building. He said the clone would probably come out "slightly cheaper" than reassembly.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Readicut pays same as profits slump

PRE-TAX profits at Readicut International, the textiles and upholstery group, slumped from £18.7 million to £12.1 million in the year ended March 31. Turnover contracted to £226.5 million (£231.4 million). A final dividend of 2.81p makes an unchanged 3.44p, covered 1.2 times.

The company says conditions will not improve until there is a sustained reduction in interest rates and inflation. Capital investment has been modest and cost-reduction programmes have been implemented. Supplies of car carpets were affected by the weakness of the automotive industry and industrial product interests generally had a tough year.

Power sale woos 3.5m

THE sale of the two Scottish electricity companies had attracted 3.5 million registrations from potential investors by the end of last week. The total looks set to exceed the 4 million mark by the time registrations close tomorrow night. The price of the two Scottish companies will be announced on May 30.

H Young lifts at half time

H YOUNG Holdings lifted pre-tax profits from £251,000 to £377,000 in the six months to end March, on turnover of £14.6 million (£13.8 million). Operating profits fell to £422,000 (£554,000), but interest payments fell from £303,000 to £45,000. Earnings rose from 1.1p to 1.7p a share. The interim dividend stays at 2p.

Fairline bucks trend

EXPORT growth helped Fairline Boats, the luxury boat builder, buck the industry trend with a 4.7 per cent rise in first-half profits, but the group gave warning of "considerably lower" sales and profits in the second half. Pre-tax profits rose to £2.1 million (£2.01 million) in the six months to end March, on turnover up to £19.3 million (£17 million).

Exports rose about 33 per cent and accounted for about 50 per cent of sales, while home sales were static. Earnings increased from 38p to 41.9p a share. The interim dividend is maintained at 7.15p.

Shires trust value falls

NET asset value at Shires Investment, the fund managed by Glasgow Investment Managers, fell to 260.39p at end March, compared with 287.26p a year earlier. Pre-tax revenue jumped to £5.19 million (£3.9 million) in the year. Earnings per share climb to 19.03p (18.65p). A final payout of 5.8p (5.5p), makes 17.8p (16.75p).

Film library profits surge

SHAREHOLDERS of British & American Film Holdings, the investment company and film library owner, will benefit from pre-tax profits up to £1.23 million (£927,000) in the year to end December. Earnings per share rose to 32.5p (25.04p). The final payout is 6.3p (5.65p), making 9.3p (8.3p) for the year.

Foster's sells holding

FOSTER'S Brewing Group yesterday made Aus\$187 million (£85 million) from the sale of its 9.8 per cent stake in Goodman Fielder Wattle, the food group. The sale was part of the plan by Foster's, formerly Elders IXL, to become a single-purpose brewer.

The holding was sold to a range of institutions at Aus\$1.80 a share with the remaining stake expected to be sold overnight at the same price to European and American investors. Goldman Fielder shares closed 11 cents lower at Aus\$1.87, while Foster's shares were steady at Aus\$1.59.

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Business Computers, Tel. No. 061-463 5650. STOKES-ON-TRENT: Davidson-Richards, Tel. No. (0782) 257484. TELFORD: PSM, Microcomputers Ltd, Tel. No. (0952) 291670. Randoro Computers, Tel. No. (0952) 222005. TRURO: A.C. Systems, Tel. No. (0872) 79727. WAVERFIELD: D.I.Y. Business Bureaus, Tel. No. (0204) 578755. WILTON-ON-TYNE: Fergusson Computers Ltd, Tel. No. (0322) 241692. WITFORD: PSC Limited, Tel. No. (0525) 243301. WIMBORLEY: Action Computer Supplies, Tel. No. 051-400 2566. WIMBORLEY: Instruments Ltd, Tel. No. (0252) 525694. WOKINGHAM: Miller Computer Tel. No. (0734) 782316. WOLVERHAMPTON: Micro Business Centre, Tel. No. (0902) 28255. Woolvent, Tel. No. (0902) 700159. WORTHING: Ferncourt Buy Centre, Tel. No. (0903) 525091. WREXHAM: Micro Computer World, Tel. No. (0778) 350418. WREXLEY: Microtrading, Tel. No. 021-784 0077. Also available at branches of ComputerLand, ComputerGroup, Computecenter and SCC & (0232) 244111. PC Consultants, Tel. No. (0232) 459354. LISBURN Medical & Scientific, Tel. No. (0846) 677533.

0272 838120

Europe's trap for ICI

COMMENT

In the heyday of huge leveraged takeovers four years ago, ICI started preparing the logistics of a defence against the sort of break-up bid that would previously have been unthinkable. Leveraged takeovers died with the junk bond market, but the plan is coming in handy now that cash-toting Lord Hanson has started circling ominously round the chemical giant's bows.

The biggest effort would go into the financial argument, should Lord Hanson pounce. As Britain's biggest manufacturer and civil technical powerhouse, ICI would also inevitably lobby for a monopolies commission review of any hostile takeover. This might be to no avail.

The rules on vetting big multinational takeovers changed radically last year. A bid by Hanson for ICI would now fall squarely into the purview of Sir Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, who would alone vet its competitive implications. Sir Leon, moreover, would not take non-competition issues into account, unlike the MMC. Should the government want such a bid to be vetted by the

MMC as well, it would have to ask the European Commission as a whole for permission, except in certain defence, media and banking or insurance matters.

Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, would have to argue either that there was a distinct local competition question, unlikely in this case, or that there was some other legitimate national interest. Permission would be far from automatic. The commission has already made it clear, for instance, that Mr Lilley's objection to takeovers by state-owned firms is a non-starter.

In the old days, a reference could be made to the monopolies commission on vague competition grounds, leaving the MMC to bring in other matters. Mr Lilley would now have to go out of his way to present a case to the commission that the British authorities ought to intervene on non-competition grounds.

Even now, the trade secretary is touring the country ex-

pounding a policy of non-interference in market forces, except on grounds of competition. Unless Mr Lilley made a humiliating U-turn, therefore, public interest questions surrounding a takeover of the country's premier commercial scientific powerhouse would go unheard. Since a Hanson bid for ICI would raise few direct competition issues, beyond the easily resolved question of toxics, regulators might have little to say on the matter at all.

Grounded

As Sir Colin Marshall, British Airways' chief executive, graphically noted, the airline moved from day to night when Operation Desert Storm swung into action. The trouble is

that, while General Schwarzkopf is looking forward to well-earned retirement, BA is still waiting for the dawn. In the latest four weeks, traffic is 8 per cent lower than a year ago, of which higher yield business is 16 per cent down as recession-hit firms economise in air fares.

Lord King and Sir Colin have not been idle in responding. BA has cut capacity by 3 per cent for the extended summer period, but has to face extra competition from United and American on the Atlantic routes, without any compensating competitive gains in Europe. No wonder Lord King is furious with the government.

The cost-cutting exercise has produced £265 million in annual savings, which is more than originally targeted but evidently not more than will be needed. Having reaped those savings, BA

will hope not to repeat the £120 million exceptional charges for redundancies and aircraft write-downs. On the downside, profits on aircraft sales and leasebacks, which rose from £41 million to £103 million last year, will not be repeated this time. The trading problems also wreaked havoc on the balance sheet. Net borrowings rose from £434 million to £1.23 billion, equivalent to 96 per cent of shareholders' funds before allowing for aircraft leases. In terms of the airline industry, however, BA is still in fair shape.

For the moment, BA's financial appeal rests on its dividend, maintained at 8.85p and still covered by earnings, down from 31p to 13.4p per share. At 164.5p, the shares yield 7.2 per cent. The dividend will not lightly be cut but 1991-92 will be a hard test. A loss seems certain in the first quarter and all will then depend on how fast and how far traffic continues to recover. Shareholders need to

have faith in management, which has done relatively well so far.

Gold bugged

Followers of gold will find cold comfort in the 25th edition of Gold Fields Mineral Services' annual bible of the industry. The metal even failed to perform when Iraq invaded Kuwait, leaving many to ponder what will ever make the price move. Probably nothing in 1991, according to Gold Fields. Jewellery demand remains a cornerstone and there has been some renewed investment buying. Last year, central banks and the like were net buyers of 40 tonnes, after selling 225 tonnes in 1989. Supply, dominated by South Africa, could start to peak under cost pressure but forward selling by mining groups did not help in 1990 and more big Soviet sales are likely this year.

Gold may well last longer than today's prawn sandwiches, but the fear remains that it may only buy a cheese and tomato sandwich tomorrow.

Why Europe is the catalyst in world chemical reaction

Hanson's ICI moves have focused attention on other players in the industry

THE worldwide chemical industry deals in time horizons that few of us would contemplate in our own lives.

BASF, the world's biggest chemical group, has a 25-year strategy. It also has a plant in Ludwigshafen, in western Germany, that employs 50,000 people and consumes as much power as Czechoslovakia.

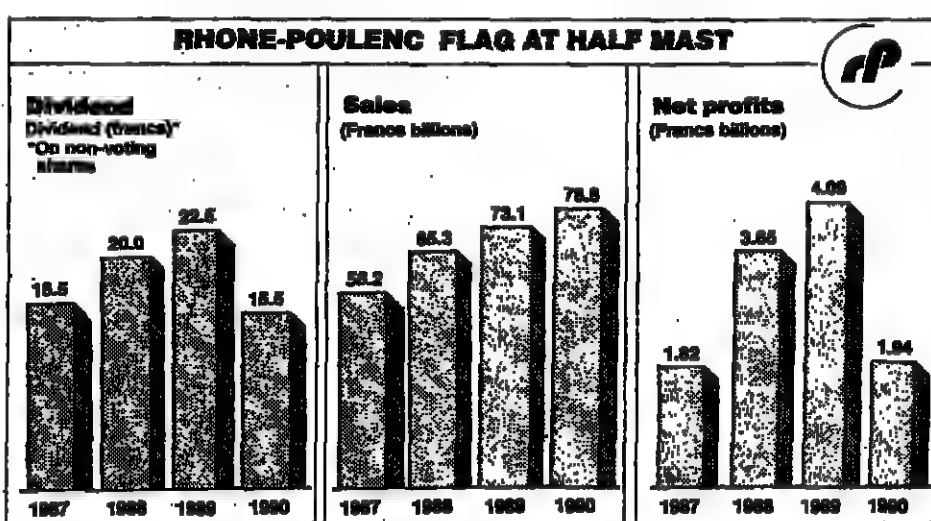
Size and commitment have been the keys to success in chemicals for half a century, and the Europeans have proved their mastery of them. Of the top five companies in the world, only Du Pont is based in America and its sales, at \$22.3 billion last year, are little more than two-thirds those of BASF, which earned revenues of \$31.2 billion.

Hoechst and Bayer, two more German groups, took second and third slots. Britain's Imperial Chemical Industries, with 1990 sales of \$24.9 billion, claimed fourth place and a rapidly diminishing reputation as the world's most profitable chemicals group.

Beneath the giants lie a dozen or so companies, some household names, which have prospered according to their ability to dominate a particular niche in the market.

In reality, the position of even the largest company in a specific market is never a simple reflection of its overall size. Each has technical and geographic areas of strength. Since the plants are large, a new facility can add significantly to world capacity, often causing prices to collapse. The result can be cyclical swings in profitability throughout the industry.

During the latter half of the Eighties companies sought to reduce their vulnerability to these ups and downs by shuffling assets. They got out of businesses where they were



weak and tried to reinforce those where they were strong and could influence prices.

The strategy was only partly successful, as the slide in ICI profits, from \$1.5 billion in 1989 to \$977 million last year, showed only too well.

ICI was not alone. Even BASF suffered a 37.3 per cent slide in pre-tax earnings to DM2.75 billion. But ICI is

not alone, achieved by ICI, towards North America, which accounts for 40 per cent of world chemicals consumption, and the developing markets of the Far East.

It was also an expression of the French government's desire to see at least one "national champion" emerge in every strategic industry.

Between 1985 and 1990, M

pre-tax profit of £380 million on sales of £7.96 billion was no cause for celebration. Nor was his company's 90 per cent gearing. As one of Rhône-Poulenc's senior American managers put it: "State ownership has certainly been a help in the last five years. I believe it will be just as important in the next five."

State ownership has protected Rhône-Poulenc against takeover and has allowed it to assume huge debts and take risks in restructuring, to an extent denied a stock market-quoted concern.

In the longer term, however, it may prove an embarrassment. Sir Leon Brittan, the European competition commissioner, has begun a campaign to make the relationship between state firms and their shareholders more transparent and to expose them more vigorously to market forces.

The British, and others, have expressed concern over backdoor nationalisation where private companies are acquired by state concerns. And the third Rhône-Poulenc has for capital is not easily satisfied by a government that has other claims on its spare cash.

The French state may yet surrender its control of Rhône-Poulenc to the stock market. But, for the moment, M Fourtoun can have little cause to be jealous of the kind of independence enjoyed by Sir Denys Henderson, chairman of his British private sector rival, ICI.

ROSS TIEMAN
Philadelphia

The contrast between ICI and the state-controlled Rhône-Poulenc of France could not be greater

more vulnerable, as Lord Hanson has demonstrated so graphically.

The contrast with Rhône-Poulenc of France could not be greater. Rhône-Poulenc is 56 per cent-owned by the French state. In reality, however, the French treasury controls substantially more of the shares, since many of those supposedly in the open market are owned by state-controlled institutions such as Crédit Lyonnais.

So Rhône-Poulenc is invulnerable to takeover. And that allowed it to grow during the latter half of the Eighties in a fashion that would have been unthinkable for any company in the private sector.

In 1985, Rhône-Poulenc's management, under the chairmanship of the youthful technocrat Jean-René Fourtoun, decided to go global.

It was, in many ways, a belated effort to match the leap out of post-colonial mar-

Fourtoun spent \$4 billion on a global acquisition spree, and he sold 60 businesses for £700 million. At the same time he invested over £5 billion in research and development and new plants.

The effect was considerable. Rhône-Poulenc increased its sales in North America from 3 per cent to 21 per cent of the group total. It gained a foothold in Asia and spread its wings in Britain and continental Europe. From providing nearly a third of its market, France shrank to less than a quarter. Most dramatically of all, revenues grew by 107 per cent, against a 64 per cent average for the top five companies, and lifted Rhône-Poulenc from twelfth to seventh in the world league table.

As the benefits of improved market positions and restructuring work through, M Fourtoun expects sales to go on growing strongly and profits to resurge. Certainly, last year's

Suez aims to sell up to 40% of assets

GROUPE Suez, France's leading industrial and financial group, is to turn from buyer to seller, its chairman said in London. Gérard Worms also revealed that Suez had been in talks to buy a stake in Samuel Montagu, Midland Bank's merchant banking subsidiary, and Midland's European operations.

He said Midland had approached six European institutions and proposed a joint venture, although Suez pulled out of the talks late last year. Midland's new management, headed by Brian Pearce, the chief executive, is thought to have scrapped plans for a European joint venture.

M Worms said in a presentation yesterday that the group's priority was to streamline its operations, with plans involving the sale of up to 40 per cent of its assets over the next five years.

Suez has made disposals worth Fr2.5 billion since last November, and plans sales worth another Fr5 billion over the next 12 months.

The rationalisation policy is in direct contrast with Suez's former reputation as an aggressive buyer. The new strategy was formed when M Worms took over as chairman last November after the death of Renaud de la Genière.

The change follows Suez's disappointing results for last year. Net income fell 9 per cent to Fr3.71 billion, while earnings fell 16 per cent to Fr33.5 a share.

In Britain, Banque Indosuez, Suez's main banking subsidiary, suffered a loss at Carr Kitch & Aitken, the stockbroker, due to its share dealings with Ail Nadir, the head of Polly Peck. Gartmore, the asset manager, was profitable.

Suez's sales will concentrate on non-core industrial businesses such as food manufacturing and transport. The group is also looking for buyers for some of its minority shareholdings. M Worms said: "We will not be a frenetic and spectacular acquirer of new businesses."

In the shorter term, Suez hopes to raise earnings per share this year.

NEIL BENNETT
Banking Correspondent

Lifebelt for Trade Indemnity

TRADE Indemnity Group, Britain's largest credit insurer, has learned to its cost the recession is neither as short nor as shallow as the government forecast. In March, the company reported a pre-tax loss of £28.8 million for 1990 after underwriting provisions of £28 million.

If Trade Indemnity hoped this would be the end of its problems, it was mistaken. The rate of company failures has accelerated, and the further provisions now needed would slice the company's solvency margin to close to the trade department's regulatory minimum.

So the company has asked shareholders for a lifebelt via a £39 million rights issue. The funds will restore Trade Indemnity's solvency ratio to six times the minimum, where it stood before the recession. This will not only allow it to make the extra provisions but also to cope with a surge in premiums. Demand for Trade Indemnity's services is booming, as companies discover the benefits of credit insurance.

The stronger capital base should also help Trade Indemnity's bid for the government-owned Insurance Services Group. Trade Indemnity's losses knocked 12p from its share price yesterday to 66p. The rights issue is at 55p on a 13-for-20 basis. Despite the discount, the new shares are still at a significant premium to net assets.

The company is a pure recovery play and economic

optimists should take up the rights.

Yorkshire TV

NOTHING better demonstrates the volatility of media stocks, and the difficulty of submitting them to rational analysis, than the overwhelming success of a 40-year-old slice of bucolic whimsy for Yorkshire Television.

The screening of *The Darling Buds of May* could not have been better timed. It gave a sharp hike to the share price while propelling Yorkshire to the forefront of the nation's attention just when the applications for the next franchise round were due.

Of the incumbents facing a fight to retain their franchise areas, Yorkshire is one of the best placed. The two challengers are not highly favoured, while it still has £14 million in its coffers despite heavy spending this year already.

The interim figures from Yorkshire show a less encouraging picture. A 3.4 per cent fall in advertising revenue to end-March, a touch short of the industry average, combined with a shortfall in programme sales to leave total revenues £11 million lower at £95 million. Although YTV clawed back £5 million through cost savings, pre-tax profits fell from £11.1 million to £6 million after an unchanged exchequer levy.

The second half should show a further fall in revenue, not helped by a comparison with last year's World Cup ratings. At 304p, down 3p, the shares sell at about 13 times

this year's depressed earnings, and at this rating the potential is already in the price.

Compass

SINCE last tipped by this column in December, shares in Compass Group have risen from 360p to 435p. Another increase in pre-tax profits from £13.7 million to £15.5 million during the six months to the end of March, lifting earnings by 2p to 15.4p a share, suggests the high rating was justified.

Investors should, however, expect the shares, on a prospective p/e of 13, to pause for consolidation after such a heady run. The chairman's statement yesterday was decidedly downbeat, conceding that the recession was finally having an effect on trading.

This hardly amounts to a profit warning but represents a departure from the bullish talk one has come to expect from Compass.

The company has experienced substantial growth since it was formed through a management buyout from Grand Metropolitan in 1987, and could not be expected to maintain the same pace indefinitely.

Compass raised £3 million by selling interests in building services but has since spent £27.5 million on three hospitals that barely broke even, increasing net debts to about £50 million. Commercial logic exists but the benefits will not be immediate. A good time for investors to take some profit.

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JON ASHWORTH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Proposals not taken on trust

THE dispute over proposals for "high-risk" unit trusts, which would allow people to invest in futures and options, is hotting up. The Unit Trust Association wants greater risk warnings on the trusts than are being proposed by the Securities and Investments Board. The SIB suggests that up to 20 per cent of the new funds can be invested in "risky" investments, such as futures and options. That is strange, considering that earlier this year the UTA was in favour of a limit of 25 per cent in initial margins. The SIB is said to be furious over the UTA's change of heart. Both sides, however, are doing their best to pour oil on the troubled waters. Colette Bowe, the SIB's group director for retail markets - and head of information at the time of the Westland leak - denies she is

upset over the apparent U-turn. She says, tactfully: "No, not upset, but I thought it was a bit odd." The UTA adds: "It's our job to co-operate with the regulators every way we can."

Showing the Way

NEVER accuse solicitors of being boring. Determined to show its clients in the property



world a good time, McKenna & Co, the London solicitor, is holding a windsurfing day at Kintons Farm country club near Reading, Berkshire, on May 31. Penny Way, the champion windsurfer tipped for a gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics next year, will be offering instruction. Jon Vivian, the marketing partner, says: "It is something a little bit different." Tim Wheeler of Brixton Estate and Chris Peacock of Jones Lang Wootton have already signed up.

Shiner example

BRENDAN Russell, an assistant director in the corporate finance department of Singer & Friedlander, is famous for collecting black eyes. On a trip to Jerusalem he was caught up in a riot and returned with an admirable shiner. Then last year, while scuba diving in the Dominican Republic on his honeymoon, he surfaced to find he had two black eyes,

caused by mask squeeze. On a weekend trip to Amsterdam, he collided with a tram, resulting in one more for his collection. "I do seem to make a habit of them," he quips.

A BRANCH of Barclays Bank in the Bahamas is claiming the title for the shortest opening hours in the world. The branch on Green Turtle Cay is open from 10am to 1pm each Thursday.

Fleckney returns

CLIVE Fleckney, the smaller-companies expert who left Laing & Cruickshank with a handful of colleagues in December, is back in business. He has joined Matheson Securities, the subsidiary of Jardine Matheson, to build up the firm's smaller-companies base. And he has found himself among familiar faces. Alastair Villiers, the managing director, worked with him during a spell at Schroder Securities, while another col-

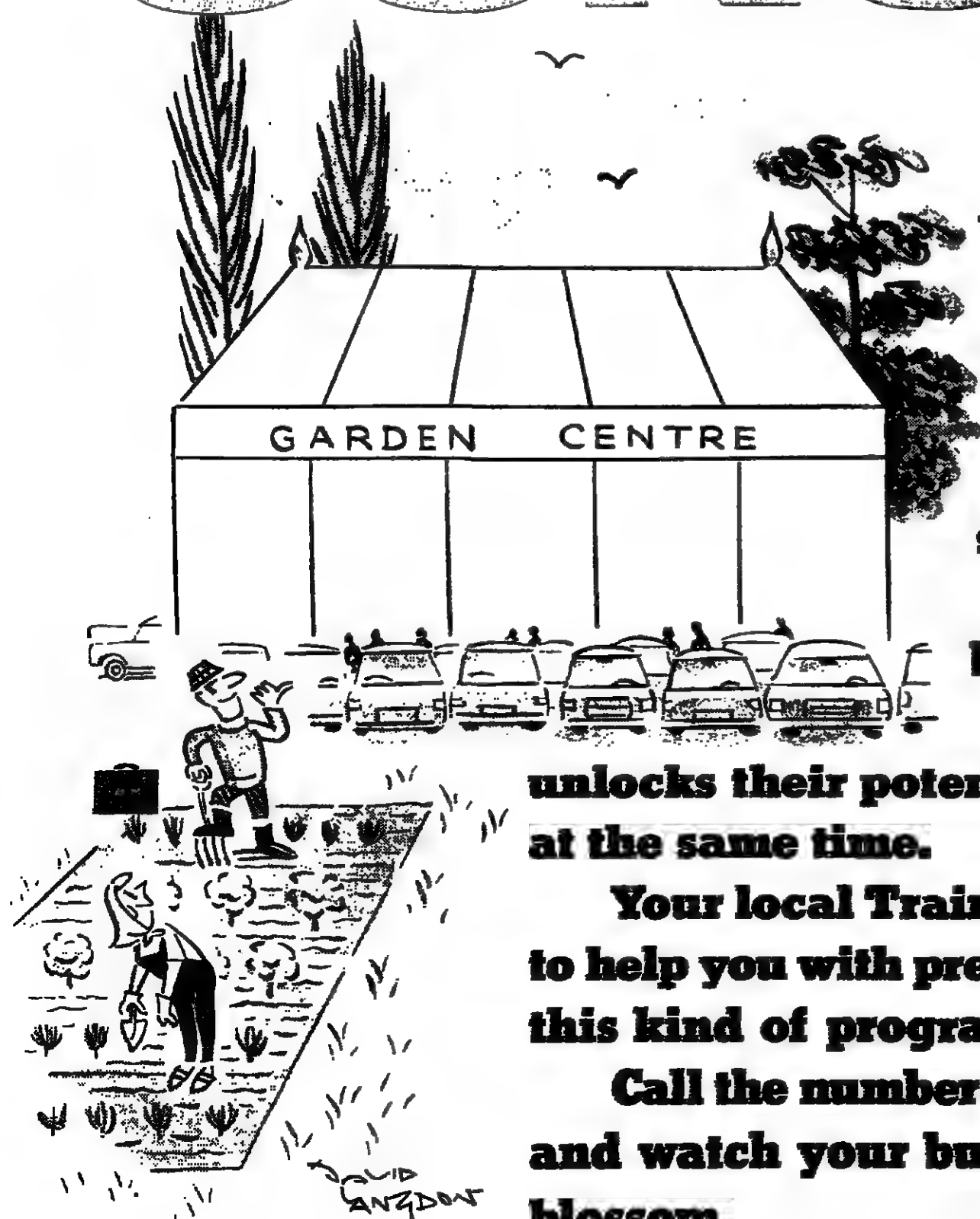
league used to work with him at Rowe & Pitman, where Fleckney began his City career.

Dinner date

YOU may want Jeffrey Archer as a neighbour, but would you invite the novelist and former Conservative MP to dinner? CALA Homes, the Midland housebuilder, is asking for nominations for the celebrity who would make the best dinner guest. John Grant, managing director, says: "We have run similar surveys in the past. In one instance we discovered that Jeffrey Archer was the man most people would like to live next door to." The prize is dinner with the most popular nominee.

SIGN in an accountant's office in Yeovil, Somerset: "People don't plan to fail - they just fail to plan."

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The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

MONEY MARKETS

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

OTHER STERLING RATES DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Argentina (austal)	170592-170680	Ireland	15880-17558
Australia dollar	2,32942-2,32943	Italy	1,7659-1,7660
Bahamas dollar	1,7161-1,7162	Japan	1,7212-1,7252
Brazil cruzado	476,02-476,83	South Africa	1,2896-1,2920
Cyprus pound	0,0506-0,0518	Australia	1,1486-1,1487
Dollar (US)	1,0000-1,0025	Canada	1,1520-1,1521
Greece drachma	322,4-323,8	Norway	1,1800-1,1801
Hong Kong dollar	13,4626-13,468	W Germany	1,1785-1,1717
India	16,56-16,5675	Switzerland	1,4822-1,4831
Kuwait dinar KD	4,7502-4,7503	France	1,4800-1,4801
Malaysia ringgit	1,1500-1,1520	Netherlands	1,3736-1,3737
Mexico	6,1500-6,1501	Belgium (Com)	1,3743-1,3775
New Zealand dollar	2,9429-2,9507	Belgium (Com)	1,35-1,352
Philippines	1,0000-1,0001	Hong Kong	1,0670-1,0680
Singapore dollar	2,0581-2,0511	Hong Kong	1,0670-1,0680
S Africa rand (fin)	5,6485-5,7434	Poland	1,00-1,002
U A E dirham	1,6267-1,6268	Spain	1,66-1,662

May 28, 1991 to Jun 28, 1991 Scheme E: 13.07%. Schemes II & III: 13.32%. Reference rate Mar 29, 1991 to Apr 30, 1991 Scheme IV & V: 12.024%.

[illegible]

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

Charity's work blooms at Town Thorns

Ben In a special report, David Young profiles the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, Ben for short, which has opened an £8m Midlands home

Despite closures and redundancies over the past 20 years as the British motor industry has been buffeted from recession to recession, one in three people in the Midlands still has a connection with the motor trade.

So there was a certain inevitability about the choice of a site near Rugby, Warwickshire, for Town Thorns, the fourth residential centre established by Ben, the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund. The centre will be officially opened tomorrow by Princess Alexandra, who is patron of the fund.

Since its founding in 1905, Ben has been developed to provide support and care for those in the industry. Members now come from every business which has a connection with the motor trade, from major manufacturers to filling station owners.

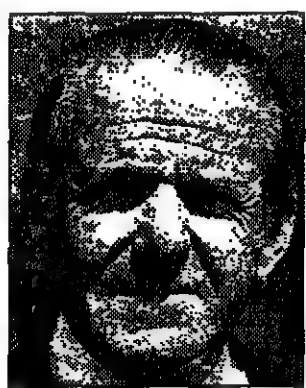
Ben provides such a wide range of services for such a wide range of people that it is among the top 100 registered charities in Britain, and is one of the few charities which has approval to act as an agency for the payroll giving scheme, under which people can contract to give a regular amount from their pre-tax salary.

Nationally, more than

2,000 men, women and children, who live in their own homes, rely on Ben for special or regular grants to ease the financial difficulties caused by illness, disabilities, bereavements or other misfortune.

Then there are the four residential centres. Ben originally ran a children's home in south London which it passed on to the Salvation Army during the war. The charity opened its first centre at Lynwood near Ascot, Berkshire, and later opened its second at Birch Hill, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, to serve its membership in the North and in Scotland.

This left a gap in the



Alan Pond, Ben president

middle of the country which Ben partially filled by opening a centre in Southport, Merseyside. Now the chain has been completed with the opening of the Town Thorns centre.

More than 400 people are looked after at the centres. Various types of accommodation are provided at each centre from sheltered flats for single and married active retired people to residential wings providing care for those with mobility problems, and units in which 24-hour, specialised care is available for those with severe disabilities and the elderly infirm.

Town Thorns is unique among residential centres operated by charities in that it has a separate area for disabled people of working age to live as actively as possible, and a safe area for old people with dementia.

The figures show that for every pound donated to Ben 86.5p is spent directly on residential care and welfare, and 13.5p on administration and communication. Statutory income support from the government now falls far below the cost to Ben of providing care for people. Last year Ben had to fund £83.05p every hour of the day and night by its fundraising activities.



One step at a time: Kevin Ravenhill, a resident, exercises under the guidance of senior physiotherapist Jean Wooliscroft at Town Thorns

A step in the right direction

Geoffrey Atkinson has faith and hope, but above all knows charity was the foundation on which Town Thorns was built

The building of Town Thorns at a time of recession has been a triumph of optimism and hard work for Geoffrey Atkinson, the chief executive of Ben. Now Mr Atkinson is leading a campaign calling on the government to revise payroll giving laws to allow Ben better access to funds from individuals working in the motor industry.

Mr Atkinson says: "To embark on a project that initial estimates - and we all know how unreliable they can be - put at £4.5 million when we didn't have the funds in place was indeed an act of faith. To embark on it at a time when building costs were soaring and interest rates rocketing was a different matter."

"In fact the final cost has come out at nearer £8 million

and we still need to raise funds, but the final result at Town Thorns is a magnificent facility which will provide wonderful care and which is an example of what the people in the industry can do to help each other."

"Traditionally the fund has always had an advantage over other organisations - our trump card is the industry we serve and the people in it."

"It is they, their generosity and understanding which has helped the fund overcome every problem in the past. Not only that, but Ben has continued to grow steadily to meet rising demand."

"This is because companies and individuals give time,

facilities and help-in-kind as well as money."

But, Mr Atkinson says, many in the motor industry have not heard of Ben. He believes that if the charity is to meet future challenges more people must become involved.

"One problem we have faced has now become a crisis," he says. "The government is not making adequate funds available to help people pay for nursing or residential care and every charitable home in Britain, including Ben's, is running up substantial deficits."

"This problem is not unique to Ben. A recent survey showed that many smaller

charities are on the verge of collapse, so we must keep up our campaign on the government to make sure that state allowances come somewhat closer to the perfectly reasonable fees charities have to charge."

Mr Atkinson is now directing much of his energy to lobbying for changes in the taxation system affecting charities, not just on Ben's behalf but for all occupational benevolent funds in the country.

British charities estimate that the recent increase in VAT rates could cost them as much as £500 million a year. Increased VAT has virtually cancelled advantages charities were given by John Major when he was chancellor. His tax concessions on gift aid have been welcomed, but new income from them has disappeared in increased taxation which charities cannot reclaim.

A lobby of parliamentary members and Euro MPs has started, and Mr Atkinson is also leading a campaign to have payroll giving rules changed so that charities such as Ben can have better access to funds donated by industry workers.

Ben was a pioneer of payroll giving when such donations were taken from after-tax earnings and successfully persuaded many in the motor

industry to give donations in such a way. When the law was changed and donations came from pre-tax earnings, this type of fund-raising became easier.

However, only charities accepted as collecting agencies by the government are allowed to collect in this way. The result is that employees are hesitant to donate through their wages office because they cannot designate a particular charity.

Ben is an accepted agency and earns 15.75 per cent of its annual income, £373,875, from payroll giving, but there are many industry companies that would take part in payroll giving if, like employees, they could specify a charity.

"Charity managers try to ensure that they only spend a few pence in every pound of their income promoting themselves," Mr Atkinson says. But he points to an anomaly in this. To cover Ben's 1989 fund-raising operation spending was £322,000, while its largest competitor set aside almost the same proportion of its income on promotion, but such was the difference in the size of the two that this gave the competitor £7,417,000 to spend.

"With a budget that size it is hardly surprising they are a household name and one of the first causes to be thought of when donors are deciding to give money," Mr Atkinson says. "Surprisingly, Ben remains buoyant."

An eye for suitable sites

THOSE who have searched for the perfect house will have sympathy for David Prescott, the secretary of Ben. Among his tasks has been the search for the site of two of the charity's four centres.

Ben was already operating centres at Ascot, Berkshire, and Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, when the search started for a northern centre. Mr Prescott, a Lancastrian by birth, headed north from his office in Ascot to look at a former NHS hospital on the Lancashire coast. It was suitable, but driving through Southport a closed hotel caught his eye.

He started a detailed examination of the possibilities and saw the first sign that the property, now restored and named Alexandra House, could be ideal for Ben.

He found that the original freehold owner of the land the building was on was the same person that had owned the charity's first major centre at

Ben has followed in the footsteps of famous families

Ascot was built. Mr Prescott says: "That appeared to be a good sign and we started the long process of turning what had become a derelict hotel into a fine residential centre."

Alexandra House, it transpired, had been the original home of the Hartley family, of jam fame. Lynwood in Ascot, was the original home of the Grey family, of Earl Grey tea fame. Mr Prescott has now found that Town Thorns was the original home of the Worthington beer dynasty.

Mr Prescott says: "We seem to have developed a habit of following in the footsteps of well-known families. It has been a coincidence, but one which has had a happy outcome. Town Thorns is already proving itself to be as suitable as all of our other centres."

"When we decided to set up a centre to serve the large number of people we represent in the Midlands we contacted the various people, such as architects, who have the contacts which often come up with suitable large properties."

"In this case they didn't find anything, but one of our fund-raisers who lives in the area saw that Town Thorns, a former school for special-needs children run by Coventry City Council was to close and the property put on the market."

"We started the process to win planning permission and to buy the property and at the same time we had to start raising the estimated £4.5 million that would be needed."

"Town Thorns was the most ambitious project that many of the people we dealt with had come across. They had their worries and doubts, but we eventually overcame those problems and bring all the strands together."

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Geoffrey Atkinson: the chief executive of Ben believes the trump cards in his industry are the people who give so generously to build facilities such as Town Thorns for their less fortunate colleagues

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Companies fund the caring

The motor vehicle industry has helped to make the Town Thorns home the envy of other centres

A stroll through the corridors of the new Town Thorns residential care centre opened by Ben near Rugby, Warwickshire, leaves the first-time visitor impressed by the facilities and by the generosity of those companies in the motor industry that have contributed such huge sums of cash to enable it to be built.

Ben's fund-raisers still have much to do to make sure that the final bank loans are covered by donations, but already endowments from the famous names, and from some who are hardly known outside the trade, have made it possible for the new wing to be equipped with the best facilities available.

The new president of Ben, Alan Pond, whose company is the biggest service-station operator in Britain, says: "The facilities are clearly impressive and the contributions from so many companies have been heart-warming. Our job now is to make sure that the funds keep coming in so that the wonderful facilities are used to the full."

"The staff and the facilities here will enable many people who have worked in the industry to enjoy a much better quality of life with the exact amount of independence or care they require available."

Town Thorns is the envy of many in the residential care world. Some facilities, such as the hydrotherapy pool, will be available for use by the local area health service.

The facilities have been designed by the best consultants in the business, but they have also been installed after every member of Ben's staff at its other three centres was asked for ideas. The facilities incorporate many of their suggestions.

Ben's director of nursing and residential services, Elaine Surquest, who is based at the centre in Southport, Lancashire, says: "The approach



High-standard accommodation: Town Thorns near Rugby aims to help residents lead fulfilling, satisfying lives

we have adopted is a holistic one, in which the whole well-being of the resident is taken into account. That is why we have such facilities for diversion-therapy, as well as traditional physiotherapy, which enables us to concentrate on every aspect of health.

"It means that as well as the residents developing, our staff can develop their skills and work together to make sure that the fullest possible range of care is given."

The matriarch of Town Thorns is Christine Walton, who trained at the Royal Masonic hospital in London, and until recently was clinical manager at Walsgrave hospital, Coventry.

She says: "I am so impressed by Ben's integrated approach in providing care for people of all ages and backgrounds. Not only is the accommodation high-standard, the support facilities and resources of the Ben organisation will give all the residents every opportunity to lead fulfilling and satisfying lives."

The special aspect of the

Town Thorns centre is the mix of facilities it offers and therefore the mix of people who will stay there. The centre has been designed so that every level of care can be offered throughout, although initially residents will be in the

'Our job now is to make sure that the funds keep coming in so that the wonderful facilities are used to the full'

area that best suits them. There are self-contained flats with staff on call, units in which 24-hour help is available and areas in which nurses with specialised skills work at all times.

What now remains is for the

other members of the Ben team, the fund-raisers, to continue to ensure that the cash to keep the centre going comes in.

Tina Steele, the director of fund-raising, says: "Luckily, we are operating in an industry in which there are many generous companies. Cars for our staff, for instance, are lent to us by the leading manufacturers and importers and we are lucky in that minibuses have been made readily available for our centres."

"Our industry also has an active social life and we are able to raise funds at many social events such as golf tournaments."

"Our main source of income, however, is from donations and contributions and we have more than 40,000 people contributing directly from their wages. Other trade associations in the industry accept Ben as their own charity and give readily."

"It is the enthusiasm of the people who raise funds which is heartening. When recently I talked about our work at the Peugeot plant at Coventry, one shop steward, Barry

Thomas, immediately offered to stage a charity walk between our Ascot headquarters and Town Thorns, and walked non-stop for more than 100 miles to raise £1,300.

"With people like him in the industry, Ben has much to be thankful for."

More helping hands needed to lift load

People want information and advice when they face a crisis. Ben can help

WITH its wide range of first-class facilities, the new residential care centre which Ben has created at Town Thorns is the most dramatic manifestation of its services to the motor industry. Many of the clients, however, receive help of a less visible kind. Often it may be just a shoulder to cry on.

Mrs Sheila Cooper, the director of Ben welfare services, operates from the headquarters of Ben at Ascot, Berkshire, and is backed by a largely volunteer staff.

Mrs Cooper says: "Often, all that people want is information and help at a time when they face a crisis. With so many people in the motor trade throughout the country, we have a constant flood of people who need help. For many, we can sort out their problems simply by talking to them and helping point them in the right direction."

"For others, we need to keep in touch for long periods and provide financial as well as physical support in their own homes. In many cases, such as after an accident or a bereavement, we can take much of the load from those involved."

"At times like that, they need help to sort out the details and to make sure they receive all the aid they can draw. Then we can let them return to as normal a life as possible. But we always keep in touch so that they know that Ben is still there to help."

"In many other cases, we build up a long-term relationship with people at home whom we are able to help financially or with other facilities. We are also able to call on other charities to help spread the load. We often find that somebody in the industry who has a problem is also able to receive some form of help from a charity connected with their previous jobs, such as the forces charities, with which we co-operate."

"The large employers in the industry recognise that we can help, and often their personnel

departments call us to assist and support their own efforts. It shows that we are there to help everybody in the industry, not just those in companies too small to have staff of their own to help in such cases."

Mrs Cooper has a message for those who have worked in the industry and could help. She says: "Ben needs to build its team of voluntary visitors to help visit more than 2,000 men, women and children in their homes. These beneficiaries live all over Britain; at present, we have only three full-time welfare officers."

"To help them, there are more than 40 voluntary visitors who have become literally the eyes and ears of Ben, visiting people with all kinds of needs, from financial help to befriending."

"You could help Ben and become part of the team — the only commitment we need is some of your time, which can vary according to the demand in each area. If you are interested you need to be fit, energetic, aged under 70, with a car and a heart big enough to care about people."

Volunteers are particularly needed in Birmingham, Leicester, Hull, Yorkshire, south Wales and Scotland, she says. They will need to attend two or three training days a year and will receive a modest mileage allowance to meet the costs of petrol.

• Mrs Cooper can be contacted at Ben (0344 30191).



Help at hand: Sheila Cooper

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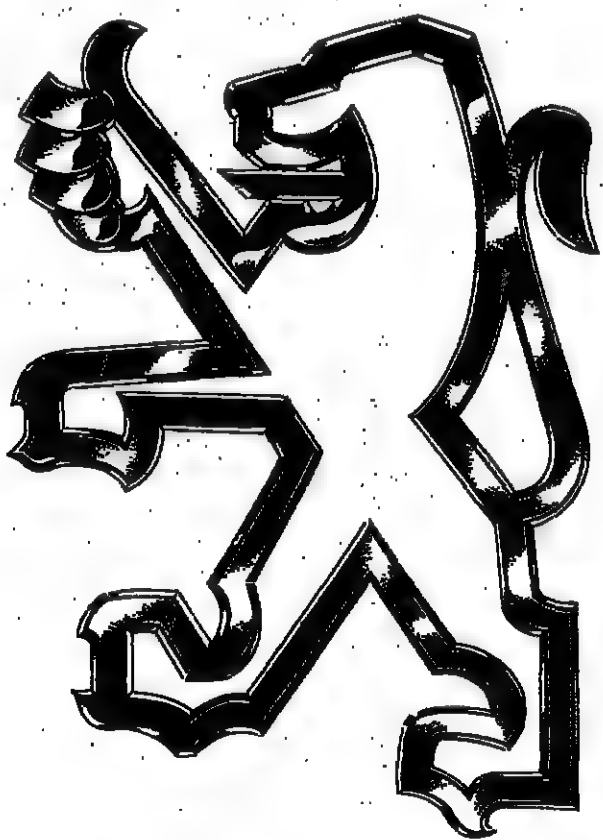
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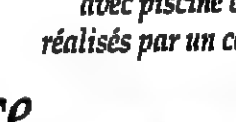
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If the recession bites any deeper, annual betting turnover could drop for the first time in the 25 years that records have been kept

Forecast of revenue hopelessly out of reach

By TONY FAIRBAIRN

Chairman of the Racecourse Club

Racing's financial problems have escalated even since evidence was presented to the home affairs select committee which reported this week; the statistics given to the committee are from what seems now like the good old days.

There were words of wisdom and condemnation from the parliamentarians, and no section of the racing industry was left untouched. But the home secretary is highly unlikely to indicate a resolution to the new problems which need to be overcome before the end of this month when the structure of the sport for 1992 has to be decided.

And it is the punters who are the cause of it all. High mortgage and interest rates, short-time working and growing unemployment have put a massive squeeze on discretionary expenditure and had a catastrophic effect on betting turnover.

Len Cowburn, the deputy chairman of William Hill, put the problem in a nutshell: "During past recessions, betting has been hit last but not least. This time it has

been hit late but been hit badly."

The Horserace Betting Levy Board, which holds racing's purse strings, budgeted in January 1990 for a ten per cent growth in levy income. At that time, it was not an unreasonable forecast.

But the situation changed rapidly. The revenue for the year ending in March this year fell more than £1 million short of the expected £38.5 million. The present year looks likely to be more than £2 million short of the anticipated £40.54 million. And next year's provisional forecast of £42.6 million looks hopelessly out of reach, unless the home secretary accepts the recommendation of the home affairs committee and prizes an extra £12 or £13 million out of the big bookmakers.

Betting turnover figures for the first three months of 1991 showed a sharp decline, and, if the recession bites any deeper, annual turnover could actually drop — something that has never happened in the 25 years records have been kept.

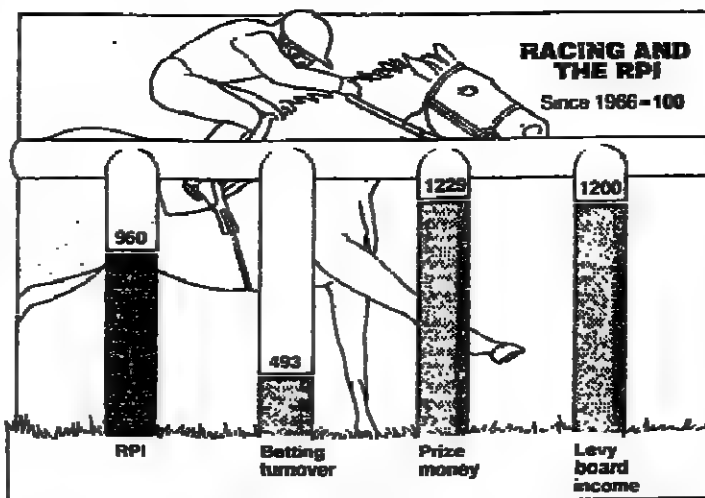
Blaming the levy board for getting its sums wrong is an easy option, but it is false. The prediction of future betting turnover is a job Solomon himself would hardly have relished.

It would be an exaggeration to describe the racing industry as feather-bedded by off-course betting turnover, but it has none the less become what the Royal Commission on Gambling in 1978 described as "addicted to subsidy". The home affairs committee refers to a "negative mentality... as if it were someone else's responsibility to ensure its prosperity".

Since 1966, when the Chancellor first imposed the tax on betting which now brings £350 million or so to his coffers, the retail price index (RPI) has gone up from 100 to 960.

Indexing prize money over the same period shows a rise from 100 to 1,239, and the levy board, whose income has gone up 12-fold, has seen its prize-money contribution escalate from 100 to 2,954.

It might be assumed that the apparently healthy situation has resulted from an upsurge in punters' expenditure. In fact, it has not. Betting turnover has gone up from nearly £873 million in 1966-7 to about £4,301 million in 1989-90, which when indexed shows a growth from 100 to 493, against the RPI of 960.



This does not, however, indicate that there has been any significant decline in the amount of money spent, in real terms, by punters. Betting turnover is calculated on punters' money which is bet and rebet to extinction. For every £1,000 spent — or lost — turnover of £4,505 will have been generated and from this £451 will have been taken in tax and levy. By the same token, every £1,000 that stays in the punters' pockets means a drop in turnover of £4,505.

In other words, almost half of punters' expenditure is siphoned off in tax and levy — money which pre-1966 would have remained in circulation. Indeed, £1,000 spent then would have produced turnover of £8,260 — almost double that of today.

The levy board dropped a bombshell two weeks ago by confirming that the £2.9 million saving it had called for already to balance its books in 1992 would be insufficient in the light of the latest betting turnover statistics. Accu-

mulated shortfalls plus revised forecasts meant the board would be looking for economies of about £6 million.

The board indicated several weeks ago that it would now be able to support more than approximately 1,000 fixtures — the list has increased by more than 20 per cent over 20 years to 1,142 — a suggestion which caused apoplexy in the ranks of the Racecourse Association, whose alternative was a reduction in the minimum levels of prize-money.

A compromise might have been reached on May 8 when the Horseracing Advisory Council met to give the levy board and the Jockey Club a consensus view from the grass roots of the industry. However, that meeting coincided with news that £6 million, and not £2.9 million, needed to be saved and the members adjourned for further head-scratching.

Inevitably, when the decision is reached, it is certain that levy support for both fixtures and prize-money will be cut next year. Cutting the fixture list will cause problems to the 59 racecourses, but the days involved are unlikely to include any that would be economically viable without levy

board support. None the less, they do help racecourses spread annual overheads over a greater number of days and the squeeze will be painful.

One route that should be examined urgently is the restructuring of the fixture list to maximise betting turnover and in particular the extension of programmes on many midweek days when racing is run primarily to keep betting shops busy.

When spectators are counted in hundreds, but with betting taking place in almost 10,000 off-course shops and credit offices, eight-race cards would boost horserace betting turnover, at present concentrated into two-and-a-half or three hours a day, leaving the shops to promote dog racing and betting on other sports for the other nine hours they are open.

The need to reduce the minimum level of prize-money might be short-lived, but if it is cut from £3,150 — the present flat-race minimum — to, say, £2,850, the winning owner will be £161.79 poorer, the owner of the second £50.94 worse off and the owner of the third £25.47 out of pocket. It would not be the end of the world.

GOLF

Lancashire pair briefly discover the correct lines

By PATRICIA DAVIES

EDDIE Clitheroe, who made a winning appearance on *What's My Line?* last year, is the starter at Sheringham golf club and yesterday, in the first round of qualifying for the English women's amateur championship, it looked as though he had proved a good omen for the two competitors from the Lancashire club bearing his name.

First of all, Kim Rostron, the Lancashire junior champion, aged 17, making her debut in the English, distinguished herself with a round of 76, two over par. Then came news that Kirsty Speak had gone out in 36, two under par. On a breezy day (no more than a zephyr to the windblown locals), only two other players bettered par on the outward half and a lot of people struggled, including one poor soul who hit 53.

Speak, a student of physical education and recreational management at Loughborough, who lives up to her name with a lively line in chat, moved to three under par with a birdie four at the 10th. That, however, was that. Unlike Eddie, who fooled the panel, she could not keep her secret from the course.

"I hit the ball terribly all day," Speak said, and over the last seven holes she dropped five shots — one at the 12th and two each at the 14th and 16th, where she drove right, on to the railway line. She finished with a 75, highly respectable, but her late lapse left the way clear for Caroline Hall, the English girls' champion, from Filton, to shoot the only sub-par score, a 71.

Hall, a talented 17-year-old who is quite likely to achieve her ambitions of making the England senior team and the British squad this year, plays full-time, apart from the odd, money-making stint in Burger King. She was two under par after ten holes and did not drop her first shot until the 12th, where she bunkered her second. She had her third birdie at the 13th but dropped another shot at the 15th, where she had more bunker trouble, before hitting a half wedge to six feet for her fourth and final birdie at the 17th.

At the other end of the age scale and yesterday, after an 82, a long way up the scoring scale, came Angela Uzielli, the defending champion. Last year, at the age of 30, she became the oldest champion.

This year, at 51, she said: "Maybe I'm too old for all this."

It was not a serious comment but, undoubtedly a little nervous at defending, she lumbered herself with a seven at the first, a par four of 335 yards, and admitted that that threw her. "I hit the worst shot I ever hit," she said of her second shot, "a complete head-up on a four-iron and it disappeared into a bush never to be seen again. Then I dropped in a darned silly place and put it in a bunker by the green."

There was no escaping that it all added up to seven and although she dropped only one more shot on the first nine, she was not at ease with herself and her game.

She bunkered her seven-iron tee shot at the 11th — not a difficult thing to do — and took four more to get down. She also took five at the 15th, another par three, after putting her tee shot, with a six-iron and a new ball, into another bunker and failing to get out, and a birdie three at the 16th was small consolation.

"I just want to qualify and get a chance to defend properly," Uzielli said, knowing the way to do it was to avoid dropping seven shots on three holes. There are 33 players ahead of her, nine on the same score and 32 to qualify today.

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES: 71-C Hall (Filton); 72-D Adams (New 74-S Stevens (Peterborough); 73-R Maffington (Crude Heath); K Speak (Clitheroe); F Brown (Hewell); E Edmond (Filton-on-Sea); 76-C (Tilcom) (Pittodrigg); K Tabbie (East Devon); K Rostron (Clitheroe); C Caldwell (Burntwood); 77-K Eddowes (Barnstaple); S Bales (Beau Desert); 78-J Secker (Cress Hill); J Williams (Royal Cornhill); A Englehouse (Cornhill); J Hat (Fleetham); Pery, B Lord (Sandway); J Ganges (Woolley); 79-B Lord (Sandway); L Fletcher (Barnstaple); G Palmer (Worship); L Fletcher (Almington); M King (Rochford Forest); K Whitehead (Sherwood Forest); J Collings (Sherwood Forest).

Preaching the art of the possible

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT



Playing the game: de Lange shows the determination she will bring to her new role

SHAKE hands with Ellen de Lange at your peril. She has the grip of a vice, which is all the more unexpected for being hidden behind the smile of an angel. Both, in their way, reflect a life lived way beyond her 25 years.

For all but the first three of those years, de Lange has been confined to a wheelchair. She was hit by a car at the age of three and has not walked since. Yet confinement is not quite the right word for de Lange: she is ranked No. 2 in the world in wheelchair tennis, a basketball international, and, in 1988, became the first disabled student to graduate in PE from The Netherlands.

It is hardly surprising, then, that this year de Lange added another first to her list. When she was appointed executive secretary of the International Wheelchair Tennis Federation (IWTF) in February, she became the first professional administrator in wheelchair tennis, which has the distinction of being the only disabled sport officially incorporated into the able-bodied international federation. The new post gives de Lange a new responsibility that even she admits is bewildering at times.

"There is so much to do," she said. "It's hard to know where to start." On past form, that is unlikely to stop de Lange any more than having no power in her legs stopped her from taking up tennis five years ago, or from graduating in physical education. If there was ever any hint of self-pity in her character, it has long since been submerged by an indomitable spirit — a spirit which, allied to a touch of bloody-mindedness and boundless charm, will make her a formidable crusader on behalf of her sport.

The IWTF was formed two years ago and already has ten member countries. There is a regular circuit of eight leading tournaments, often running parallel to the able-bodied events, and, though the United States is still at the heart of the game and the US Open is the most-prized title, the game is developing fast in Europe.

Yet there is still a very long and hard road ahead and the problems being close to home. Some players are very enthusiastic, de Lange said. "Edberg and Lendl, for example, have played ex-

hibitions for us and then joined in a game of doubles with a wheelchair player. But others are still wondering why we are here. They don't even bother to come and watch."

If they did, they would find wheelchair tennis skilful, athletic, demanding, different from their own game in the method of propulsion and in the rule that allows the ball to bounce twice, but exactly the same in the level of commitment.

In her new role with the IWTF, de Lange faces two long-term challenges. One is to persuade disabled people that they should shed their inhibitions and join in. The other is to persuade the public and potential sponsors that the sport is not just a curiosity.

"We don't want people to pity us, we want people to think the game is exciting and good to watch," de Lange said. "The recreational administrator in wheelchair tennis, which has the distinction of being the only disabled sport officially incorporated into the able-bodied international federation. The new post gives de Lange a new responsibility that even she admits is bewildering at times."

"To keep up with the best you have to train and play every day. But the discipline and the confidence playing tennis — or any sport — can give a disabled person helps so much in daily life. There are obstacles everywhere — kerbs, bus stops, stairs — and you have to ask people to help. Many disabled people won't do that. They would prefer to stay at home."

"The importance of a game like wheelchair tennis is that it shows the public and disabled people themselves what is possible. There is a lot of people who have never heard of the game."

De Lange's life will now be divided between continuing her competitive career and promoting the game worldwide through education and coaching programmes, exhibitions and tournaments.

"It will be exactly the same process of development as able-bodied tennis. Slowly spreading the light," she said. The torch is still in the firmest grasp possible.

Law Report May 22 1991 House of Lords

Costs automatically follow acceptance of money paid into court

Legal Aid Board v Russell. Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Emslie, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman and Lord Ackner. [Speeches May 16]

Where a plaintiff gave notice under Order 22, rule 3(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court

accepting money in court he became entitled to his costs under Order 62, rule 5(1) without having to obtain an order of the court.

Such a plaintiff was not entitled to interest on his costs under sections 17 and 18 of the Judgments Act 1838 since those sections, construed in the light

of legal terminology in common use at the time of the enactment of the Act, referred to the orders made by a particular judge in a particular case and not to the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by the Legal Aid Board, substituted for the plaintiff John Edward Woodley, from an order dated June 28, 1989 of the Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, and Lord Justice Taylor) [The Times June 29, 1990; [1990] 2 QB 607] allowing an appeal by the defendant, Dennis Russell, from Judge Doherty QC, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division (The Times May 23, 1989) who had dismissed Mr Russell's appeal from the ruling of Mr District Registrar Donaldson in the Oxford District Registry [The Times May 23, 1989] that Mr Woodley was entitled to interest on his costs from the date of his acceptance of the sum of £35,500 paid into court in settlement of Mr Woodley's claim for personal injuries in a road traffic accident.

Mr Duncan Matheson QC and Mr Christopher Frazer for the board; Mr Dermot O'Brien QC and Lord Meston for Mr Russell.

LORD ACKNER said that the short issue raised was

whether or not acceptance under Order 22, rule 3 of money paid into court entitled the party accepting that payment to interest on his costs under sections 17 and 18 of the Judgments Act 1838, and, if so, whether the right to such interest ran from the date of the acceptance of the payment or from some other, and if so, what date.

The litigation arose out of road traffic accident which occurred on September 18, 1984. Mr Woodley was injured and he was granted legal aid in proceedings in the High Court. Liability appeared never seriously to have been in issue.

Following an interim payment of £5,085 and a payment into court of £7,500 on May 10, 1988, a further payment of £22,915 was paid into court on May 31. On June 20, 1989, Mr Woodley, pursuant to Order 22, rule 3(1), gave notice that he accepted the resultant sum of £35,500 in satisfaction of his cause of action.

On October 19 and January 20, 1989, taxation of costs was carried out by Mr Registrar Donaldson. In reliance on the House of Lords decision in *Hunt v R. M. Douglas (Roofing) Ltd* ([1990] 1 AC 398) it was argued on behalf of Mr Woodley that he was entitled to interest on his costs as from the date of the acceptance of the payment in. That contention was ac-

cepted by the registrar and subsequently on appeal by Judge Doherty.

Mr Russell served notice of appeal to the Court of Appeal. But Mr Woodley had little or no interest in the point since the benefit of any interest recovered on his costs would go to the Legal Aid Fund: see sections 63(1b) and 16(5) of the Legal Aid Act 1988. On an application on behalf of the board the Registrar of Civil Appeals made an order substituting the board for Mr Woodley.

Sections 17 and 18 were extensively considered by the House in *Hunt's* case but in that case it was common ground between the parties and accepted by the House that an order of the court had been made. It, therefore, carried interest as if it were a judgment. Thus the only issue was from what date that interest ran.

On the other hand, the problem in the instant case arose out of the fact, as would be seen from Order 62, rule 5(1), that where a party gave notice in the prescribed form pursuant to Order 22, rule 3(1), he became entitled to his costs without the necessity of obtaining any order of the court.

That enabled a plaintiff, in a straightforward action, who followed the procedure laid down in Order 22, rule 3, to achieve expeditiously by his acceptance of the money paid into court by the defendant, the payment out of that money together with his taxed costs, if not agreed, without the obligation of applying to the court for an order of costs. Mr Matheson made two submissions. First, he contended that the words of section 18 that "all rules of courts of common law... whereby any sum of money... shall be payable to any person, shall have the effect of judgments..." covered the Rules of the Supreme Court. It was, of course, common ground that the section had to be construed in the light of legal terminology then in common use and any other provisions of the same Act then in force.

Jones v Williams (1841) 8 M & W 349 confirmed what his Lordship would have otherwise thought to be the case. Sections 18 and 19 were referring only to the orders made by a particular judge in a particular case.

When the Act was passed "rules" were, as Lord Donaldson had pointed out in his judgment, a term denoting decisions or rulings by the judiciary on a case by case basis. Contemporary law reports constantly concluded with such

expressions as "rule nisi", "rule absolute" or "rule discharged". It was clearly only in that sense that section 18 referred to rules of courts of common law.

Mr Matheson's second contention was that the combined effect of Order 22, rule 3 and Order 62, rule 5(4) was that in every case in which the plaintiff accepted money in court, the court was deemed to have made an order awarding the plaintiff his costs.

The very provision in Order 62, rule 5(1) that "no order for costs was required in the circumstances mentioned in this rule" which included all acceptance, in accordance with Order 22, rule 3, of money paid into court, negated the proposition that an order was deemed to have been made.

But the fatal blow to that contention was given by Order 45, rule 15, a provision which in relation to money paid into court had been in the rules since 1894. If Mr Matheson's submission was correct, Mr Woodley would already have had such a judgment on and by the virtue of his acceptance of the money in court. Order 45, rule 15 would therefore be wholly otiose.

His Lordship, therefore, reluctantly concluded that the appeal had to be dismissed. The anomaly which it dis-

closed was clearly the result of the misapprehension which had existed since the Court of Appeal's decision in *K v K (Divorce Costs: Interest)* ([1977] Fam 39), that interest on costs ran only from the completion of taxation, instead of from when the costs order was made.

That explanation was reinforced when the various and unrelated situations specified in Order 62, rule 5, where no order for costs was required, were considered. The importance of the issue had recently been highlighted as a result of the substantially increased scale of interest which was currently ordered.

The Master of the Rolls, in concluding his judgment, suggested that a short and relatively simple amendment could be made to the 1838 Act when Parliamentary time allowed.

His Lordship hoped that the Rule Committee might first give urgent consideration to whether it was within their powers so to amend Order 62, rule 5 as to provide that in each case there specified, an order should have been deemed to have been made.

LORD KEITH, LORD EMSLIE, LORD BRANDON and LORD TEMPLEMAN agreed.

Solicitors: Cole & Cole, Reading, Vizards.

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Bruno's path from boxer to British icon

I was speaking to Chris Bruce, marketing director of HP Foods. The sauce people. "He's everything that we are, and that we wish to be known for," he said. "Honey. Unpretentious. Well-loved. And of course, very British."

He was speaking of Frank Bruno, who is all those things. He is also black. He is perhaps the best-loved British black in history. Bruno, the great British heavyweight boxer of the past decade, was dressed that day as a chef, apron, checked trousers, the lot. He was doing his stuff as a promotion stunt for *cette sauce de premier choix*, as the old HP Sauce label so memorably expressed it. The press pack included a recipe for Brunoburgers; a pound of mince and two table-spoons of guess-what.

And there was Bruno, shaking hands, telling everyone in sight to take it easy and to keep duckin' and divvin', signing autographs and occasionally letting rip with his great Santa Clausian "ho ho ho". People outside his immediate orbit exchanged remarks like "he's so lovely", "sweet man" and "even nicer than I thought".

Surely only Britain could produce a heavyweight boxer as truly, as massively, lovable as Bruno. He tried, insistently, to help clear up the dishes after his chef performance, and was surprised at the adamant refusal. Bruno has a public act—there is no doubt about that, if you know what I mean—but at the heart of the learnt-by-rote banter is such inescapable kindness that nobody who comes near him can fail to be touched by it.

Bruno has become a great British icon, the first black sportsman to achieve this odd distinction. He is up there with such sportsmen as Henry Cooper, Ian Botham, Bobby Charlton, Gazza. And he has something more: perhaps it is innocence.

"One of God's people," his one-time trainer, George Francica, said, "like Cooper, Bruno's homeliness is made still more appealing by his fallibility. Every fallibility

SIMON BARNES on the appeal of a lovable heavyweight who found a special place in a nation's affections

lay in his propensity to Niagaras of blood when struck; Frank's failure lay in the fact that, ultimately, he seemed just too damned nice to fight people and destroy them.

"That's such a difficult question," he said, when I put that to him. "Boxing is my job. People send you out, and you've got to do it. You might get told to go and ask people crazy questions that your heart doesn't want to do. But your pocket tells you to go out and do it."

His job? Bruno seems less and less a fighter with every passing week. He seems far more panto star than boxer, a person who has given himself up to the job of being a full-time media phenomenon. Bruno himself doesn't see it that way. He was always going to fight again.

"I don't make long-term plans. They mess you up and throw you off balance. I was planning to fight again. Then I heard I had a torn retina and maybe could never box again—that threw me right off course."

He said: "Boxing is in my blood. I'm 29 now, I still train every day, and I miss boxing. I don't want to retire now and then make a comeback at 35 or something. I want to get it out of my system, out of my blood, out of my body. Now, so I can live with it. Be comfortable mentally. I could make an embarrassment of myself coming back, even now, so there's a lot to take into consideration." Bruno is perhaps the only person in Britain who really wants to see Bruno in the ring again. The idea of seeing him getting thumped again seems too painful. He might have been born for his role as national mascot, as panto piper, the boxing merely a painful preliminary.

"A panto piper is here today and gone tomorrow," Bruno countered. "That's how life is, that's how things are. You're grateful for whatever's on the table. I've got a lot to be grateful for. I worked on a building site, and now I go to hotels like this." He waved a vast hand around the ballroom, with its cocktail sippers, and HP logos. "What matters is keeping your feet on the ground. Being level-headed. Being grateful for what you've got."

The contrast between Bruno and Muhammad Ali almost shouts at you. Different men, different nations, a different time. Ali was loathed by the white establishment from one side of America to the other, but his intelligence and talent saw him overcome.

Where Ali was loathed, Bruno is loved. Ali sought confrontation; Bruno, never a remotely dangerous character, was swept up into the nation's arms with a genuine, if sometimes patronising, affection. Ali turned his combative fury against the whole white world, and in a manner of speaking, won. Bruno offered the world only his charm and his boxer-like desire to work harder. Thus he became, as I said, the most popular British black in history.

"That's nice. If people really think that, it's really nice. The way I see it, though, it's about keeping my feet on the ground. One day you might be the best this-and-that, next day you might be the best nothing. I don't want to get big-headed and out of order, but if what you say is true—it's very, very nice."

You can be cynical about Bruno's act, you can be cynical about his panto appearances and his image and his adverts. But you cannot be cynical about Bruno himself, the reason he took such a hold on the British imagination is that he is genuine. "It's so difficult saying what I'm going to do next. I don't know what I'm going to do next. Got to trust in the Man Above."



BOXING McMillan ready for a test of nerve

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN could see an exciting new world championship prospect emerge tonight. Col McMillan, the Berking featherweight generally acknowledged as the smartest boxer in the country, challenges Gary DeRoux, of Peterborough, for the British title at the London Arena.

It is a classic encounter between the boxer and the puncher, DeRoux having already featured in one of the "fights of the year" when he lifted the title from Sean Murphy by stopping the St Albans man in five rounds in March.

As DeRoux dropped Murphy with a left hook to the body, Barry McGuigan said: "My God, this guy DeRoux can fight." But McGuigan also said of McMillan, who has lost only one contest (cut eye) in 17: "He is the best prospect to emerge from Britain for a great many years."

"He is the nearest I have seen to a complete boxer. His style is a replica of Sugar Ray Leonard's. He has blinding hand-speed, good footwork and an excellent variety of punches. He can go all the way."

McMillan's trainer, Howard Rainey, said his man would stop the champion around the seventh or eighth round. All McMillan's reports from the gym have been good: he has taken shots from men like Kenny Vice, Charles Broussard and Mark Reister without flinching, made a superb success out of lightweights and welterweights. McMillan will have Beau Willford, the American trainer who took Dennis Andries and Glen McCrory to world titles, in his corner.

When the bell goes he shall find out whether McMillan has brought his nerve along with his bag and boots, or left it behind in the gym.

YACHTING Brewers close to joint sponsorship

By BARRY PICKTHALL

HEINEKEN, the Dutch brewery, is close to signing an agreement to partner Whitbread for the sixth running of the Whitbread Round the World Race, which starts from Southampton in 1993.

The 33,000-mile event has attracted more than 50 entries from Britain, and Heineken will replace the £1 million sponsorship for the five stage prizes provided for the last race by Beefeater Gin.

The two breweries will between them invest more than £4 million into running the seven-month race. Part of that money has already been put into developing the rules for a new class of 60-foot ocean racing yachts to replace the lower divisions in the next race.

Recent concerns voiced by skippers of existing maxi yachts that these lightweight water-balled yachts may prove faster than their own, International Offshore Rule (IOR) designs, particularly in the Southern Ocean, has been confirmed by the Royal Ocean Racing Club's technical committee charged with overseeing the development of the yachts.

However, instead of reducing the sail-area carried on the new yachts, the Whitbread design committee, chaired by Iain MacDonald-Smith, has proposed that consideration be given to increasing the potential of the existing maxis to ensure a three-to-four-day gap between the two classes.

Tony Ashmead, the RORC's racing director, and Rob Humphreys have been charged with drawing up a proposal increasing the speed of existing maxis to place before the Offshore Racing Council, the governing body of the sport.

"IOR maxis are slow yachts," MacDonald-Smith said. "We are all very happy the Whitbread 60 rule will produce fast, exciting boats. If the Offshore Racing Council refuses to change the IOR rule, then it will be up to the Whitbread race committee to make the changes for its race."

Cl Australia have secured King Harald of Norway's yacht, *Fram* XI, as the One Tonne entry in their team to contest the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup international offshore teams series this year.

New rules put focus on Lymington Cup

By MALCOLM MCKEAG

INNOVATION and a field of international talent mark this year's Royal Lymington Cup, which opens today on the Solent. The annual event, organised by the Royal Lymington club, is the first leg of the world match racing grand prix circuit, and the sport's overall organising body, the World Match Racing Conference, stung by recent criticism, has given the British club a mandate to experiment.

The principal complaints concerned the penalty system and the course itself. Although the new on-the-spot penalty turns are an improvement on the arcane post-race protest meetings they replace, they still effectively decide the outcome of the match, while the windward-leeward course gives too

much advantage to the leading yacht.

The result is the replacing of the penalty turn with a time penalty and the replacing of the single leeward turning mark with two, side by side, allowing the trailing yacht a choice.

Other changes include bringing the event back into the Solent from the more open Christchurch Bay and allowing skippers to use the natural hazards of shoreline and shallows to outwit each other.

The entry list includes David Barnes, Sir Michael Fay's America's Cup skipper, Tommaso Chieffi, from Italy's Il Moro America's Cup syndicate, and Chris Law, a runner-up many times and on the comeback trail in international yacht racing.

Five matches scheduled in Texaco Trophy next year

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S admirable distinction as the last of the world's cricketing powers to stage more Test matches than one-day internationals is to be surrendered next year when the Texaco Trophy series against Pakistan will comprise five games rather than the customary three.

This news, released from Lord's yesterday but long since the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, said yesterday: "As Pakistan are the only visitors next year, it was felt this would provide a good opportunity to study whether a split of five one-day internationals and five Tests would be beneficial to the game, both from a financial and playing viewpoint."

The development has two areas of interest. One is that the international cricket is now so familiar with the one-day international game that Allan Border has played more than 200 of them. An extra couple of matches is neither here nor there.

Texaco, not surprisingly, have agreed to extend and adapt their successful sponsorship to the longer series and Alan Smith, the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board, said yesterday: "As Pakistan are the only visitors next year, it was felt this would provide a good opportunity to study whether a split of five one-day internationals and five Tests would be beneficial to the game, both from a financial and playing viewpoint."

Floodlit fixture arranged

By IVO TENNANT

A DAY-NIGHT floodlit match, thought to be the first staged in England, is to be played between Warwickshire and Worcestershire on July 5. It will be held on an artificial pitch at Molineux, the Wolverhampton Wanderers football ground, in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital leukemia fund.

Coloured clothing will be worn by both teams, the ball will be white, the sightseers black and the boundaries 55 yards on each side. The organisers, Phil Neale, Worcestershire's captain, and Manders Paine, a Wolverhampton firm, are hoping to raise £50,000. There are 9,000 seats as well as executive boxes available for use in the John Ireland stand.

Neale has organised the match in gratitude for the hospital's treatment of his son, Craig. Unfortunately, it clashes with the third Test between England and West Indies at Headingley, which means that Rick and Robson, to name two, may be unavailable.

Cricket has been staged before at football grounds, among them Chelsea, Leeds United and Plymouth Argyle.

Early leaders face a test

WARWICKSHIRE, the early Britanic Assurance county championship leaders, face a taxing test when they play Essex at Chelmsford in the first round of this season's three-day matches, which start today.

Dermot Reeve, the all-rounder, will play despite a suspected broken finger. Reeve may also lead the side if Andy Lloyd is ruled out by a calf injury. Neil Foster takes over the Essex captaincy from Graham Gooch, who is with the England party preparing for tomorrow's first Texaco Trophy one-day international.

Medlycott takes all-round control

FENNER'S (final day of three): Surrey beat Cambridge University by 38 runs

TONY Hooper's maiden century was not enough to prevent Keith Medlycott from leading Surrey to a 59-run victory over Cambridge University at Fenner's yesterday.

Medlycott, who took five for 36 in the University's first innings, then hit 109 in Surrey's second innings of 252 for five declared, picked up six for 98 as the University were dismissed for 234 second time round. Medlycott's match figures were 11 for 134.

The students made a brave attempt at reaching a target of 273, their last wicket falling to the penultimate ball of the final 20 overs.

Hooper led their charge, hitting his century off 182 balls before Medlycott had him caught for 125.

At 195 for three, the University could have comfortably saved the game but they decided to chase an improbable victory instead, which cost them defeat.

SURREY: First Innings 256 for 5 dec (R.I. Aldrich 92, D.J. Bland 82, D.M. Ward 68).

Second Innings		Cambridge	
T.A. Greig	3	1	NO RUNS
G.P. Thompson	4	0	614
N.P. Farbrace	4	0	230
M.A. Atherton	4	0	145
A. Fordham	4	0	326
P. Tarry	4	0	121
M.A. Roseberry	4	0	123
S. Maitland	4	0	307
S. Maitland	4	0	173
N.E. Botes	4	0	121
J. Whitaker	4	0	233
S.G. Broad	4	0	234
D.M. Smith	4	0	230
G. Fowler	4	0	317
G.D. Mendis	4	0	127
J.P. Conway	4	0	110
R.J. Scott	4	0	205
D.O. Briggs	4	0	205
A.M. Hooper	4	0	195
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© Compiled by Richard Laskov

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© Compiled by Richard Laskov

Campaign hopes are raised

By QAMAR AHMED

THE campaign by South Africa to rejoin the International Cricket Council (ICC) and regain Test status continued yesterday with a historic visit to Lord's by Steve Tshwete, of the African National Congress (ANC).

Tshwete, the ANC national executive and sports liaison officer, was a political prisoner for 14 years on the infamous Robben Island.

He was accompanied to Lord's by Ali Bacher, the former South African captain and now the managing director of the newly-formed United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA).

They met Colin Cowdrey, chairman of the ICC, Lord Griffith, president of MCC, and Lt-Col John Stephenson, secretary of MCC and the ICC, to inform them of the ANC's support for UCBSA, a non-racial cricket body which hopes to be invited to join the ICC on June 29.

"The purpose of my visit to Lord's is to let the highest authorities know that the formation of the new cricket body in South Africa is to end any discrimination and to promote cricket on multi-racial lines," Tshwete said.

"We made it very clear that the ANC is fully behind the application by the United Cricket Board of South Africa for re-entry into the ICC."

The ANC does not aim to control cricket in South Africa, but our aim is its advancement in the country so that all races equally participate in it."

Tshwete and Bacher hope to persuade West Indies, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India to support them at the ICC meeting in July, when they are likely to be invited to present their case for entry into the ICC.

Bacher said: "Steve Tshwete has made a historic visit to Lord's and has backed the case of the newly-formed cricket board very convincingly, and I am sure the response was very good."

"In the next few days we will be meeting West Indies, New Zealand, Australian and Sri Lanka government officials in London to let them know about the policy of the new board."

"We have the full backing of the ANC and the government. Our aim at the moment is to be accepted back in the ICC."

RUGBY LEAGUE Tour itinerary is given new look

By KEITH MACKLIN

DRAMATIC changes, which break away from touring tradition, will take place in Great Britain's tour of Papua New Guinea, Australia, and New Zealand next summer. For the first time, the three international matches against Australia will be played on Friday night, instead of Saturday, subject to confirmation by an Australian television company.

In addition, the tour will not be burdened with visits to small outlying districts, where matches are played for development purposes before small crowds at a financial loss. Outside the internationals, Britain will play leading clubs from the Sydney competition, as well as New South Wales Country and Queensland Country.

The twentieth Great Britain tour to Australia will be the shortest, with a total of 17 matches. The third inter-

national, in Sydney, will be a World Cup fixture.

ITINERARY: Papua New Guinea: May 24: Tour (first leg), May 27: at Gona. May 31: at Port Moresby. Australia: June 1: at Sydney. June 3: at Sydney. June 5: at Sydney. June 7: at Sydney. June 9: at Sydney. June 11: at Sydney. June 13: at Sydney. June 15: at Sydney. June 17: at Sydney. June 19: at Sydney. June 21: at Sydney. June 23: at Sydney. June 25: at Sydney. June 27: at Sydney. June 29: at Sydney. June 31: at Sydney. July 3: at Sydney. July 5: at Sydney. July 7: at Sydney. July 9: at Sydney. July 11: at Sydney. July 13: at Sydney. July 15: at Sydney. July 17: at Sydney. July 19: at Sydney. July 21: at Sydney. July 23: at Sydney. July 25: at Sydney. July 27: at Sydney. July 29: at Sydney. July 31: at Sydney. August 2: at Sydney. August 4: at Sydney. August 6: at Sydney. August 8: at Sydney. August 10: at Sydney. August 12: at Sydney. August 14: at Sydney. August 16: at Sydney. August 18: at Sydney. August 20: at Sydney. August 22: at Sydney. August 24: at Sydney. 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FOOTBALL

Mountain awaits Rioch and Millwall in play-off

By LOUISE TAYLOR

BRUCE Rioch believes that mountains are "there to be climbed". That said, his Millwall team must mount a steep one tonight if they are to reach the first of the second division promotion play-offs. Millwall have only themselves to blame after their worst performance of the season had left them trailing 4-1 following the first leg at Brighton on Sunday, but Rioch hopes that a characteristically raucous Millwall crowd will prove "a big help" tonight. From his team, he wants to see evidence of "the quality that I know can flow through them."

Indeed, in the likes of Teddy Sheringham, the League's leading goal-scorer this season, Alan McLeary, a frequently classy central defender, and Paul Stephenson, a talented, if enigmatic, winger, Millwall have an abundance of ability. Similarly, Goodman, Rae, and Kerr are all more than useful going forward, but any attack struggles against the sort of packed defence which logic dictates that Brighton will field.

The irony that Brighton's advantage was probably prompted by a forced switch to a five-man defence on Sunday is not lost on Rioch. "Their bad lack in losing three

forwards - Byrne, Nelson, and Wade - through injury probably turned into a bit of good luck, in that they adapted well to the new system. Sheringham, in particular, was kept quite quiet," Rioch said. "Meanwhile, we made elementary errors in our own defence."

Brighton's re-shuffle involved Barry Lloyd, their manager, handing Stefan Iovan, the Romanian international, his debut as a sweeper. Lloyd acknowledged it was a gamble. As he said: "Stefan has only a smattering of English, so when I phoned him up and said, 'Stefan, Barry Lloyd here, you play sweeper tomorrow. All right?' He replied 'OK' and I kept my fingers crossed he had understood."

Reflecting on the breakdown in communication among his rearguard, Rioch seemed unruffled yesterday, but despite the calm demeanour, a repeat is unlikely to be regarded kindly.

"I will be satisfied if every one performs to the best of his ability and does what he is capable of. That is all you can ask," he said. "But although I am realistic enough to realise it is an enormous task, I am not a negative type of person, and I honestly believe we have a good chance. You have to look on the bright side."

He had to do that five years ago when, while he was manager of Middlesbrough, the club contemplated liquidation and the gates of Ayresome Park were locked. Rioch responded by training the team on borrowed grounds and playing the first match of the season at Hartlepool.

His optimism was rewarded not only by financial salvation, but two promotions that took the team from the third to the first divisions in successive seasons. However, relegation, followed by a fall-out with the chairman, resulted in his dismissal little over a year ago, leaving Colin Todd to steer Middlesbrough into a play-off semi-final against Notts County.

Middlesbrough travel to Meadow Lane with the score

level at 1-1 tonight, but they will miss the pace and crossing ability of the injured Ripley on the right wing.

However, they are bolstered by the return in defence of Tony Mowbray. Rioch once said that if he had to fly to the moon, he would take Mowbray, the inspirational captain and central defender, with him, but unless Middlesbrough are less naive than on Sunday, the first division could prove as elusive as the stars.

Then they were distracted by personal duels with County players. As Rioch said: "County are the form team: they are very physical, play their system well and, in people like Draper and Johnson, have good players. But Middlesbrough are a big occasion team, and Slaven is always capable of scoring, so it is very evenly-poised."

The two third division promotion play-offs appear equally well-balanced. Tranmere entertain Brentford with the score at 2-2, while Bolton Wanderers are at home to Bury after drawing 1-1 on Sunday.

In the fourth division, Blackpool and Scunthorpe United also start at 1-1 at Bloomfield Road, while Burnley must overcome a 2-0 deficit at home to Torquay United.



Rioch: looking for quality

Hirst wins place on tour

By LOUISE TAYLOR

TWO trophies were on display at Old Trafford on Monday night when Manchester United drew 1-1 with Tottenham Hotspur in the first division's final match of the season. Old Trafford's second highest attendance of the season - 46,791 - saw United parade the European Cup Winners' Cup, while Tottenham showed off the FA Cup. Once Bryan Robson and Gary Mabbutt, the respective captains, had reluctantly allowed the silverware out of their clutches and taken up their positions on the field it was United who opened the scoring through Ince after seven minutes.

Hendry equalised from a Walsh cross in the 52nd minute but, for once, the destiny of the points on offer was instant. For the record, United finished sixth and Tottenham tenth.

Also on Monday, England B defeated Switzerland B 2-1 at Walsall. Two goals from David Hirst - whose 33 League goals helped Sheffield Wednesday secure automatic promotion from the second division this season - earned him a place on the England senior squad's summer tour to Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia.

Clubs to bear the cost of policing

By JOHN GOODBODY

KENNETH Baker, the Home Secretary, yesterday said that football clubs must expect to be charged the full cost for the deployment of police inside grounds but that the authorities could phase in the charges over five years.

His decision will be a financial blow to many smaller clubs, which are already faced with implementing the recommendations of the Taylor Report that all football "League" stadiums should be all-seater by 2000.

Many "amateur" clubs have also been criticised for the cost of supervising matches. However, in a written Parliamentary question, Baker said: "It cannot be right for police budgets to provide a hidden subsidy to the football industry, particularly in view of the considerable costs borne by the police for policing football crowds in public places before and after matches."

Because Baker recognised that the move will cause financial difficulties, he said he would allow the authorities to exercise their discretion and phase in full

Players to decide game plan

ROME (Reuters) - The Internazionale coach, Giovanni Trapattoni, will let his players decide which tactics to adopt in today's UEFA Cup final second leg against AS Roma at the Olympic Stadium here.

Inter will be protecting a 2-0 lead from the first leg in Milan two weeks ago and Trapattoni, who has had regular disagreements this season with his three main players, Lothar Matthaus, J. van Basten, and Andrea Bellettini, said yesterday that the players would determine the game plan.

"There's been too much talk about attack and defence, backwards and forwards, too much talk of prudence," he said.

Kinman feels that attack is Inter's best way of defending their North American tour, which they are expected to start against Fiji in Suva on July 20.

England won the first but the second of their international, when Kinsey's style of refereeing seemed far more liberal in the second game. The appointment for the England game against Australia, in Sydney on July 27, has yet to be confirmed, but according to the International Rugby Football Board rules it is due to be a South African official.

Refereeing was keenly debated in Dublin over the weekend, when the rugby World Cup organisers finalised their list of officials for the tournament this autumn, at the same time as five nations' officials discussed interpretation of the laws. Rene Houquet, France's most experienced referee, has replaced Alain Concan as one of his country's nominations for the World Cup.

Backley aiming to retain title

By MARK HERBERT

ANY doubts over Steve Backley's willingness to participate in the World Student Games in Sheffield this summer were erased yesterday when the former world javelin record-holder was named as captain of the Great Britain team.

He gave full commitment to the Games, to the relief of organisers, who feared that other, potentially lucrative, meetings might deny the event, and the British team, a world-class performer. Backley identified the defence of the world student title he won in Duisburg two years ago as one of his three leading objectives this season.

"It's a great honour to be able to defend the title on home soil," he said. "My priorities for the season are the world championships (in Tokyo during August and September), the Europa Cup, and the World Student Games."

The Briton, who spent the winter training in New Zealand after suspending his studies at Loughborough University this year, predicted that he would regain his world record, which was broken when the Finn, Seppo Raty,

threw 91.88 metres a fortnight ago.

"I'm stronger than ever this season," Backley said. "My main objective is to win the world championship, and it will require a world-record distance to do that. Raty is the man to fear this season, but I will be surprised if he is still the record-holder by the world championships."

He added that the Don Valley stadium, the main athletics venue at the Games, was a superb facility capable of producing a world best. Last year, it was the site of Backley's third defeat in the last two seasons, by Mick Hill.

At the Games, he expects his main opposition to come from Patrik Bodén, the former world record-holder, from Sweden.

Ray Griddle, the Games director, said that it was unlikely that South Africans will compete at Sheffield, in the wake of Zola Pieterse's application this month. He did not rule out observers attending. "There are moves in the country for a student sports federation, which is necessary for their re-integration," he said. "But the closeness of the Games makes it unlikely they'll have a team ready."

England reacquainted with a controversial old friend

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND will renew acquaintance with Brian Kinsey, the Australian referee, when they tour Australia and Fiji in July. The New South Wales official, who handled both international matches on the England visit to Argentina last summer, has been appointed to referee against Fiji in Suva on July 20.

England won the first but the second of their international, when Kinsey's style of refereeing seemed far more liberal in the second game. The appointment for the England game against Australia, in Sydney on July 27, has yet to be confirmed, but according to the International Rugby Football Board rules it is due to be a South African official.

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The England under-21 players this evening go into the second match, at Dunfermline, of their brief visit to the Continent. Having hung on to beat the Netherlands 20-18 on Saturday, they make eight changes against the French. The French first division side, so that all the players in the party get at least one game.

Rob Liley, the younger brother of the Leicester full back, John, played last season in the French first division for Cahors, at stand-off half rather than full back, where he will play tonight.

THE French open championship, which begins next week, will have to start its run without its resident comedian. Yesterday, Yannick Noah, whose antics considerably enlivened the recent German open championship, decided his legs could not stand a serious game of tennis over five sets and pulled out.

"I am just not fit enough," he said. "I can play a match here and there and fool around, but I don't feel like going to Roland Garros just to fool around."

Noah, the French open champion in 1983, will miss his home tournament for the first time in 12 years, a sure sign that, at the age of 30 and four days, he has finally changed his occupation from tennis player to rock singer.

Chance to lay claim

TORONTO - Scotland face Ontario today in the fifth match of their North American tour (Alan Lorimer writes). It represents the last chance for some players to press for inclusion in the final game, against Canada in Saint John, New Brunswick, on Saturday.

Although the Scots had a sensational win over the United States, the feeling is that there may be some adjustments against Canada. "There are several players in today's match who could still make the international side," Richie Dixon, the assistant coach, said.

The selectors will be having

another close look at Andy Nicol, the Dundee High School 17 scrum half, who partners Graham Shield, of Melrose, in a new half back combination. The two last played together in 1988 for Scottish Schools against Taranaki. Shield, a sound kicker and an incisive runner, is being looked at as a long term prospect in the pivot position.

In the pack, the greatest competition seems likely to be for places in the front row. Ken Milne, at hooker, will be hoping for a good showing, and there could be scrutiny of both props, Grant Wilson, at loose head, and Graham Smith.

In the last six months, he has spent more time in the recording studio making his first album than on the tennis court, but he has led France to the semi-finals of the Davis Cup in his first season as captain and has not officially hung up his racket.

Shirley Ann Siddall, aged 16, from Bournemouth, is in the British junior Wightman Cup squad for the match against the United States in Cardiff from December 6 to 8.

Appeal is ruled out

JAGUAR has been told it cannot appeal against Derek Warwick's loss of world championship points, after his win in the sports car race at Silverstone on Sunday, by the International Motor Racing Federation (Fia).

The British driver switched cars after his original Jaguar broke its throttle cable on the first lap. Fia stewards said he was not nominated to drive the second car.

SPORT AND TV: Eurosport should be back on the air today, the satellite company's secretary, Daniel Mortier, said yesterday.

ATHLETICS: The Olympic 100 metres champion, Carl Lewis, smelled of alcohol and failed a sobriety test after running his car to a kerb last night. Two Houston police officers testified on Monday. Lewis is charged with drunken driving, and faces a maximum sentence of two years in jail and a \$2,000 fine if convicted.

Greg Rice, of the United States, world record holder at two and three miles in the 1940s, has died of complications after suffering a stroke. He was 75.

The memorial service for Ron Pickering, the BBC television commentator who died in February, will be held on Friday (12.30 pm) at All Souls, Langham Place, London, W1.

BOXING: The rematch between the former world heavyweight champion, Mike Tyson, and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, originally scheduled for June 28 but postponed last week, is back on again, according to a spokesman for the promoter, Don King.

Wilson finds Hawaii camp beyond reach

By CRAIG LORD

COMMITMENT to degree examinations and lack of finance have deprived Ian Wilson, a British record-holder, of the chance to take part in the first "world training camp", a scheme designed to bring the best swimmers from the United States, Australia and Canada together in specialist training centres.

Wilson's fourth-place performance in the 1,500 metres freestyle at the world championships in January behind two Germans and an Australian so impressed those responsible for devising the programme for world-class specialists that the Briton, from Borough of Sunderland, was sent a special invitation to attend the distance freestyle camp, to be held at Honolulu, Hawaii, from June 1 to 16.

However, Wilson, could not alter the schedule of his business studies exams at Sunderland Polytechnic, the dates of which clash with the training camp. Even if his timetable had been rearranged, the Briton could not have afforded the £1,500 cost of joining his foreign rivals in Hawaii.

Last year, Wilson received a grant of about £2,000 from the Sports Aid Foundation, most of which was eaten up in travel costs to and from training. After his success in January, Wilson can look forward to a £5,000 Minsat/SAF grant this year.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

WORLD LEAGUE (WALF) Birmingham 34, New York Jets 24, Los Angeles Raiders 24, San Francisco 49ers 24.

North American East division

Team	W	D	L	T	Pts
NY/NJ Giants	4	0	0	0	24
Los Angeles	3	0	0	0	12
San Francisco	2	0	0	0	12
Washington	1	0	0	0	12
Atlanta	0	0	0	0	0

West division

Team	W	D	L	T	Pts
San Antonio	4	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	3	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	2	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	1	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	0	0	0	0	0

South American East division

Team	W	D	L	T	Pts
San Antonio	4	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	3	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	2	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	1	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	0	0	0	0	0

West division

Team	W	D	L	T	Pts
San Antonio	4	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	3	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	2	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	1	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	0	0	0	0	0

South American East division

Team	W	D	L	T	Pts
San Antonio	4	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	3	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	2	0	0	0	12
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San Antonio	0	0	0	0	0

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San Antonio	4	0	0	0	12
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San Antonio	2	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	1	0	0	0	12
San Antonio	0	0			

Chelsea sign Tommy Boyd, Motherwell's cup-winning captain, as a possible replacement for England defender Dorigo

Wallace twins move to Leeds United

By IAN ROSS

THE twins Rodney and Raymond Wallace agreed to move from Southampton to Leeds United yesterday in a transfer deal that could be worth more than £2 million.

Although the hastily-arranged package was finalised after the brothers, aged 21, had completed the formality of medical examinations and agreed personal terms yesterday afternoon, the clubs were unable to come to terms on the fees.

As both players are out of contract, their respective valuations are likely to be decided by an independent tribunal. Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, is believed to have offered a total of £1.5 million for both players, while Chris Nicholl, his Southampton counterpart, is known to value Rodney Wallace alone at in excess of £2 million.

"My belief is that twins always operate better if they are working together," Wilkinson said. "From our point of view, I think that we will get a better return on our investment if we have the pair of them at this club. From their point of view, they will probably progress better if they are together."

Wilkinson added: "Rodney is an exciting player who will give our side an extra dimension next season. I don't want to have to go to a tribunal if I can avoid it, so I will be trying to seek agreement on the fee with Southampton."

Rodney Wallace, who had been attempting to secure a move from Southampton for the best part of 18 months,

admitted that the transfer was the realisation of a long-held ambition.

"I am an ambitious man and joining a club of Leeds United's stature is a tremendous boost," he said. "The fact that my brother will be moving up north with me makes a good deal almost perfect." Rodney, a forward, and Ray, a full back, are younger brothers of Danny Wallace, of Manchester United.

Russell Osman, a former England defender, has rejected a new contract at Southampton. Osman, aged 32, lost his first-team place last season and was made available, but Southampton made him an improved offer to stay at The Dell.

Tom Boyd, the captain of Scottish FA Cup winners Motherwell, signed a five-year contract with Chelsea yesterday after a transfer fee of

£800,000 had been agreed between the clubs.

Boyd, aged 25, a Scotland international with four caps last season, made 211 appearances for Motherwell in his seven years with the club. He chose Chelsea in preference to Nottingham Forest and Leeds United because he and his fiancée, who he is marrying on May 30, want to live in the south of England.

Boyd is expected to replace Tony Dorigo, who was on England duty last night, at left back in the Chelsea team. Dorigo, whose contract expires next month, has declined a new deal with Chelsea. Manchester United or Leeds are favourites to sign him.

The former Brazilian World Cup forward, Zico, signed a three-year contract on Tuesday worth an estimated \$2.5 million (£1.45 million) to play for a wealthy Japanese second division club. Neither Zico or officials of Sumitomo Metal Industries, Japan's fourth-biggest steelmaker, would confirm details of the deal.

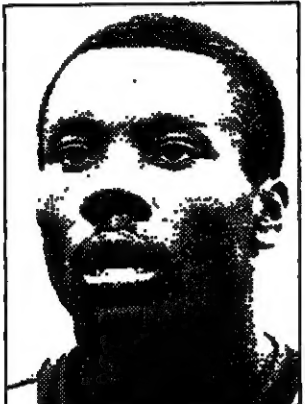
Zico, aged 38, will be the biggest name to play the game in Japan. He returns to Rio de Janeiro on Friday for a month's intensive training at his former club, Flamengo, before making his debut for Sumitomo Metal FC in August.

Peter Shilton last night officially threw his cap into the ring for the vacant manager's job at second division Leicester City. The veteran Derby County and former England goalkeeper made it clear that he would be interested in taking the Filbert Street job as player-manager.

The former Luton Town manager, Jim Ryan, has scrapped his plan to take the club to court over his dismissal eight days ago. He was on a two-year contract and rejected an offer of one year's pay, saying that he would sue the club for a better deal.

However, after further negotiations, club and ex-manager have reached an amicable settlement. Luton have still not chosen a successor to Ryan but have confirmed their interest in their former manager, David Pleat.

□ Bern (AP) — Red Star Belgrade were ordered yesterday to play their next home game in European competition outside Yugoslavia because of problems with their supporters. Uefa imposed the ban for unruliness by Yugoslavs at a European Cup semi-final against Bayern Munich on April 24.



Rod Wallace: transfer

Francis favourite to replace Howe

By DENNIS SIGNEY

DON Howe, the England coach under Bobby Robson, had his contract as chief coach at Queen's Park Rangers terminated by the club yesterday to make way for a younger man. Howe, aged 55, has been in charge of team affairs since the departure of Trevor Francis 18 months ago. The news of his departure came after a board meeting yesterday morning.

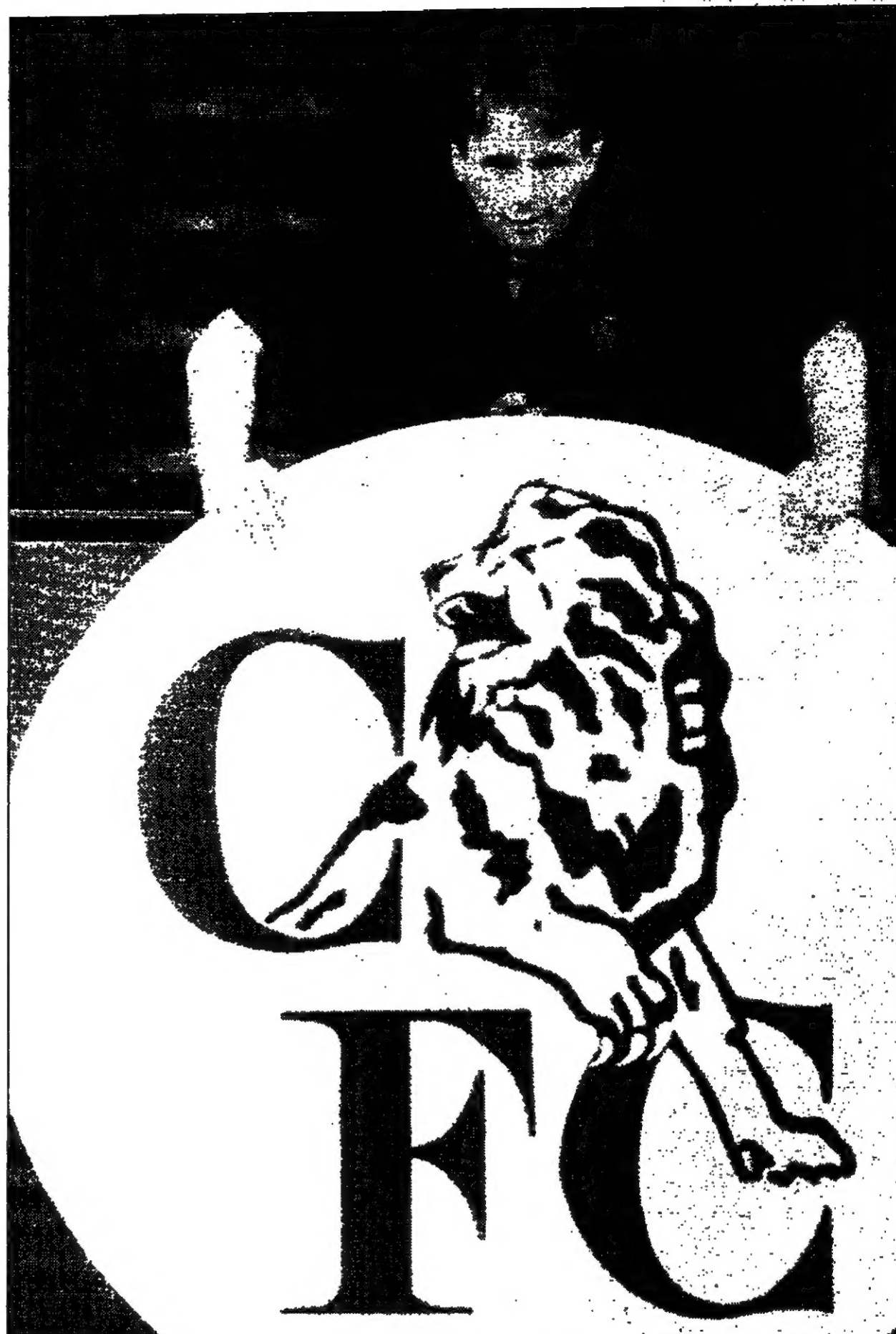
A statement from Richard Thompson, the chairman, and Clive Berlin, the managing director, said: "The board had nothing but praise for Mr Howe in the way he had performed under difficult circumstances since taking over."

"The decision should not reflect on him. The directors felt that the time was now

right to appoint a younger man to take the helm and to lead the club certainly into the mid-1990s — if not beyond — during what was likely to be a revolutionary period in English football."

Howe's departure, along with the youth team coach, Mike Kelly, seems to pave the way for the appointment next week of Gerry Francis, who has announced he is leaving Bristol Rovers at the end of his contract, as his successor. Francis started his playing career at Queen's Park Rangers and captained both the club and, later, England.

Howe said of the club's decision: "It did not surprise me — nothing does any more. I have been in football for too long to let it bother me."



Heading south: Boyd settles into new surroundings after signing for Chelsea at Stamford Bridge yesterday

Chile offer intriguing test

By PETER BALL

WITH one of their squad belonging to a club called O'Higgins, Chile could hardly have chosen a more appropriate place than Dublin to visit on their rehabilitation tour, as they are describing their present trip to Europe.

Jack Charlton's fifth match as Republic of Ireland manager at Lansdowne Road this afternoon seems likely to be a competitive one.

Chile are building a new, young side, based on their Olympic squad, against the day when they return to competitive football in the 1994 World Cup qualifying competition, when their FIFA ban expires. The ban, it will be remembered, was imposed after their goalkeeper, Rojas,

pretended he had been hit by a flare in order to avert defeat in Brazil.

The Ireland team has no such blot on its record, but several players will be eager to obliterate the memory of last month's disappointing match against Poland. Others, notably Roy Keane, the Nottingham Forest midfielder player, have an opportunity to break into an almost closed shop.

Charlton is a fervent advocate of the virtues of a settled side, and such opportunities do not occur often. Charlton refused to pick a team yesterday, waiting to see what effects the flight from Kuala Lumpur had had on McGrath and Casarino.

If Casarino is omitted,

with Quinn already absent, it will mean Ireland taking the field without an orthodox, big target man. That will deprive the game of some of its appeal as a clash of starchy opposing footballing cultures, but as a pointer to Ireland's development of a more flexible approach, it could still prove fascinating.

Especially so if Charlton's other hint at the beginning of the week, that he was contemplating playing with five in midfield, is carried out. Whatever formation he selects, however, the experienced Gerry Peyton will get a rare chance in goal, leaving Bonner to wait until next season to join the select band with 50 international caps.

McNeill clarifies his Celtic future

By RODDY FORSYTH

MONTHS of speculation about the future of the Celtic manager, Billy McNeill, comes to a head today when he meets the club's directors. Celtic last night said: "Celtic Football Club's board of directors are to meet the manager, Billy McNeill, to review the past season and to decide policy for the future. Celtic Football Club consider that the amount and nature of media speculation and invention surrounding this meeting has exceeded all bounds of reason."

It has been widely believed since Christmas that McNeill, the captain of the Celtic side which won the European Cup in 1967 and who is in his second spell as manager, was in a precarious position at the team fell well behind Rangers in the championship. In 1990 Celtic won eight league games. In the Scottish Cup final, they lost to Aberdeen and in the Skol Cup final they were beaten by Rangers.

□ The Scottish Football Association yesterday confirmed that four Dundee United players — Clark, Jackson, McNally and Van der Horst — had been reported for red card offences in the aftermath of Saturday's Scottish Cup final.

It was the team pursuit for which Hawkins was being prepared for Barcelona, and last winter he returned to the warmth of New Zealand to carry on racing.

Cycling fatalities in competition or in training are virtually unknown, unless the result of an accident, even though riders are still racing when over 70 years of age.

One of the last incidents to involve a top class rider was in 1976 when Robin Buchanan, of the south London club the Norwood Pargons, died while he was training alone on a bitterly cold May morning. He was in his early forties and had in mind an attack on the Land's End to John O'Grada record then standing at just under two days. It later transpired that he was suffering from a chest infection.

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Power of positive thinking will aid Gascoigne

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRIAN Miller, the consultant psychologist to the British Olympic Association (BOA), yesterday recommended that Paul Gascoigne should be visualising taking free kicks, making passes and dribbling past opponents as he begins his long recovery from his knee operation.

Miller, who has worked with athletes including Steve Backley, Roger Black and Derek Redmond, internationalists in hockey, rowing and squash, and three Football League clubs, urged Gascoigne, whose career is in jeopardy and whose £8.5 million transfer to Lazio has been shelved, to be positive about his comeback.

Miller said: "People will usually go through three stages. Initially, there is the sudden shock-like state. There is anger, possibly with oneself, and demands on the doctor for a date for a return to top-level sport."

"Two or three days later comes an intense preoccupation with injury. There may be

insomnia and troubling dreams. Quite naturally there is a level of depression. Finally, there is the time when individuals accept the situation and begin to display renewed interest in the comeback. Sportsmen and women have to set themselves new goals."

Miller cited the example of one injured athlete, who had to use an exercise bike as part

of his rehabilitation. He hung a map of Britain on his bedroom wall and traced an imaginary journey in pen from John O'Grada's to Land's End according to the number of miles he cycled.

The BOA is using Miller and Time Manager International, a company which helps people fill their time in the most efficient way, for advice in the rehabilitation of

injured Olympic prospects. Miller stressed that physical work can still continue, even if an individual is injured, quoting the example of the captain of an international basketball team who learnt to juggle while making his recovery.

Proper nutrition is also important because sportsmen and women can become fat during periods of inactivity. This is particularly important

for Gascoigne, who has a weight problem.

The most important factors for any player recovering from an injury like Gascoigne's are the effectiveness of the surgery, and correct rehabilitation, which the England midfielder may well undergo at the FA's centre at Lillleshall. The surgeon who performed the operation on Sunday does not expect Gascoigne to play again until 1992.

It is also important for the player to get the right support from family, friends and colleagues. Miller said: "I was most encouraged that Terry Venables [the Tottenham Hotspur manager] took the team to the hospital with the FA Cup after the final. That was exactly what was needed."

The player must believe in the efficacy of the treatment. At Lillleshall, he would be able to see people arriving injured and going away after a successful course of treatment."

The most important thing, Miller said, is the level of self-motivation. "There is a lot riding on his return: his career, livelihood and whole future."

Lazio to discuss transfer options

REPRESENTATIVES of Lazio yesterday visited Paul Gascoigne in the London hospital where he is recovering from a knee operation that will keep him out of football until next year (Dennis Signy writes).

The Tottenham and England midfielder player was carried off in the FA Cup final against Nottingham Forest at Wembley on Saturday, forcing the postponement of an £8.5 million transfer to the Rome club.

Carlo Regalia, the Lazio

general manager, and his colleagues studied a video of the operation on the ruptured cruciate ligaments in Gascoigne's right knee, and presented the player with a gold watch and a Lazio shirt. Today they will meet Nat Solomon, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur plc, to discuss taking up an option on Gascoigne when he is fit.

John Brewitt, the specialist who performed the operation on what he called a "substantial tear", has said Gascoigne will not play again in 1991, but

should be fit to resume his career next year.

Gascoigne and his advisors were planning to fly to Rome next weekend to be presented to the supporters of Lazio before their closing game of the season, against Sampdoria, the new Italian League champions.

Dave Butler, the Tottenham physiotherapist, said after a visit to Gascoigne yesterday: "I am delighted with him. He is lying there in his bed on a machine that is bending his injured knee."

Cyclist dies at London track

By PETER BRYAN

ADRIAN Hawkins, aged 22, a member of Britain's national track squad and already short-listed for a place in the Barcelona Olympic Games, collapsed and died within minutes of finishing a ten-kilometre team race at Herne Hill, south London, on Monday evening.

After his race, he had walked to a seat in the stadium grandstand and complained of feeling unwell, and appeared to have difficulty with his breathing. Members of the St John Ambulance Brigade tried hard to resuscitate him before an ambulance arrived to take him to King's College Hospital.

Hawkins, extremely powerfully built, started racing in his late teens and first came into prominence at the 1989 national championships at Leicester, winning a bronze medal.

Like all members of the national squad, Hawkins, a Londoner, had his health constantly monitored. He had a full medical with other members of the team last November, and had also been rigorously tested on a King cycle to his maximum physical capacity.

It is understood that, concerned about a possible chest infection, he had been to a doctor earlier that day.

A shocked Doug Dailey, the national coach, paid tribute to Hawkins not only as a talented athlete but "for his boundless enthusiasm for racing and training. He simply bubbled with life," Dailey said.

"It would be wrong to speculate about the cause of death. That's something for the medical profession to determine," Dailey said. "But I'll say this: in the British Cycling Federation we knew that, in normal circumstances, there was nothing wrong with the lad." Hawkins rode for England at the Auckland Commonwealth Games, finishing seventh in the one kilometre time trial to the gold medal winner, Martin Winkcombe of Australia, but improved his time in the national title at Leicester six months later to take the silver medal. He also won his second silver at the championships, leading his club, Olympia Sport, in the 4,000 metres team pursuit.

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